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Check out our Fall photos pg. 14 and 15

NIAGARA NEWS

November 24, 2000 FREE Volume 31 Issue 5

Niagara News is produced by the Journalism — Print students at Niagara College, Welland Campus

Campus Watch protects college community

Stacey Havran, program secretary of the Schools of Administrative Studies and Justice Studies, is escorted to her car by Shawn Cunningham, 19, and Rhia Charlton, 19, both of the Police Foundations program.

Photo by Stephen D'Orazio

By CHRISTINE CHALONER
Staff Writer

Never Walk Alone is the first rule of being safe on campus.

Students worried about safety on Niagara College campuses need to know the services available to prevent assaults of any kind.

Rick Demers, security manager, and Brigitte Chiki, director of student services, both say that the first thing men and women need to do is "always be with someone."

They recommend that if you don't have a friend to walk to your car with you, use the services available at the college.

Campus Watch is a service provided by students from the Law and Security Administration program and Police Foundations program to escort students to cars or the residence at the Welland campus.

Campus Watch is "geared mostly towards the late classes we offer," says Demers. The students work Monday through Thursday from 6:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. The students, who escort other students, work in pairs and come equipped with distinctive vests and two-way radios.

Students who may be leaving campus after 10:30 p.m. can still have an escort to their car. Niagara has security officers who patrol the campus and are willing to escort at any time. On pub night, there is a security officer who patrols mostly the walkway from the pub to residence, between 11 p.m. and 3 a.m.

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Volleyball team ranked eighth in Canada

By JOËL D. HERRINGTON
Staff Writer

The Niagara Knights men's volleyball team is ranked eighth in Canada, having won all four of its regular-season matches. These were against Windsor's St. Clair College, North Bay's Canadore College, Nipissing University and Mohawk College in Hamilton.

On Nov. 14 against Mohawk, from Hamilton, head coach Blair Cudmore's squad managed to win three of five games. "We showed a lot of confidence," says Cudmore, adding every player received an opportunity to see the court.

After spending two months on the sidelines for academic reasons, last year's Male Athlete of the Year Graeme Gaunt and six-foot eight-inch Shawn Barbisan were inserted into the lineup for one of the first times this season. Assistant coach Kerby Bentley says both players have blended back into the varsity action without much difficulty. However, Bentley says the team will have to determine which players

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College says $3-million purchase 'bargain'

By LAURA T. RICCIUTO
Staff Writer

Niagara College has spent almost $3 million from its operating surplus to acquire new computer capability and considers the purchase to be a "bargain."

Beth Weldon, Niagara College chief information officer (CIO), presented a progress report on the PeopleSoft system to the Board of Governors on Nov. 16.

On Feb. 17, the board approved the multi-million dollar purchase and implementation of a "new integrated software system" to replace the existing in-house college information system installed in 1981.

Niagara College officials refer to PeopleSoft as a "robust, complex and richly functional set of information systems developed specifically for higher education, with public sector accounting functionality."

Described in Weldon's report to the board as a "major investment over the next two fiscal years," the purchase budget includes figures of about $890,000 for software and hardware, $1.35 million for implementation consultants, $100,000 for training, $290,000 for internal staff replacements and $357,000 for office expenses, travel and contingency.

This brings the budget envelope to $2,987,000.

While the software from PeopleSoft usually sells for $1.8 million, Niagara College managed to acquire it for about $350,000, Weldon told the board.

She says the college received such a low price on the software because PeopleSoft wanted to increase its Ontario customer base.

Niagara College President Dan Patterson describes the new multi-million dollar computer program system to be "the leading edge. Smooth and effective."

Patterson says once the system is in place it will give students the ability to choose their education efficiently.

Continued on Page 17

Sharon Yacyshyn, textbook manager at the Welland campus bookstore, showcases the new arrival of poinsettias, in time for the holiday season. See story on Page 4.

Photo by Paul Finelli

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CAMPUS SAFETY

NRP focus on personal safety

Continued from Page 1

For emergencies, students can now use any pay phone on the campus to speak directly to a security officer. Demers says that up until about a month ago, it was difficult to reach security staff but with the persistence of Hal Baird, TITLE?, security can be reached with a touch of a button.

All pay phones on campus have been converted to have an emergency button on them. When this button is pressed, it goes directly to a separate telephone a security officer will be carrying. Although this button is on the pay phones, the service is free. Demers says phoning 911 is free on pay phones as well and something some people may forget when they are in a crisis situation.

Baird has "pursued the technology for this service" and was "finally able to get it through Bell phones," says Demers. The college had tried two other phone systems but they weren't adequate.

In student services, Chiki says her responsibility is to try to offer prevention techniques and support, if needed.

The week before school starts in September, the college offers workshops for future students, aimed primarily at students from outside the Niagara region. These workshops cost $25. Students can attend up to 10 different ones. At one workshop on personal safety, Niagara Regional Police Service's (NRP) officers speak to students about safety.

During the first week of school, a personal safety workshop is available free of charge in the residence, says Chiki.

Personal safety tips are also provided on page 147 of the student handbook provided by the Student Administrative Council. (check) Chiki says she wants to put the safety tips in the front of the student handbook next year and start "immediately posting these tips around campus."

The one place that students, faculty and guests visit each day is the washroom and Chiki says she wants to put the tips there so everyone can see them.

"Students are certainly invited to speak one on one with counsellors or security officers if they feel they need to," says Chiki, adding, "There are many pamphlets around with safety information, or you can check out the Internet."

If an assault couldn't be prevented, Chiki says, "don't hesitate to report things," adding, "Sexual assault is one of the crimes least reported because of fear."

Demers says some people feel the assault is their fault and they need to know it's not. "They are the victim and shouldn't be ashamed to report."

If victims is not ready to use their name or come forward, there is process for third-party anonymous reporting of sexual assault, headed by Lucy O'Neil of the NRP, says Demers. The victim can report information so it can go in the database to search for the assailant, but he or she doesn't have to divulge personal information.

Chiki says she "will call the victim directly and assess the state of the crisis . . . while recognizing something like this is traumatic, and (it) takes a while (for the victim) to feel safe again."

Demers says that there is another service available at the school for students who may be be harrassed or stalked. The student will be told to park in a certain area and will be escorted to classes by security officers. Security will watch for certain license plates that the victim may tell them his or her assailant may have.

"We also work together to make information for the stalker impossible to find, including timetable changes," says Demers.

Security officers at Niagara College must apply through the company (which one? Name?) and the college doesn't hire students "because of a conflict of interest." The company the college now has for security is the only one that makes its applicants take a specialized test, says Demers.

One more action students should take for prevention is to "familiarize themselves with date rape drugs, both males and females," says Demers, adding, "Never put yourself in a vulnerable situation."

Niagara College's United Way campaign co-chairs Darrell Neufeld and Rena Posteraro outside the Hennepin building on the Welland campus. The campaign surpassed its $20,000 goal. See story on Page 17.

Photo by Kevin Hartford

Scholarships, bursaries to help students

By COLLIN COULIS
Staff Writer

The Niagara Community Foundation to aid residents of this region was officially launched at the Four Points Sheraton Hotel on Nov. 16.

The public foundation is designed to help the people of Niagara by pooling donations into a permanent, income-earning endowment fund to be distributed to local charities. Grants from the fund are expected to benefit social services, arts and culture, the environment and education.

"It is anticipated that a number of grants will be established for student scholarships and bursaries," said Niagara College President Dan Patterson. "Niagara College students stand to benefit greatly from the establishment of the foundation."

Frank Branscombe, of Niagara Falls and Branscombe Family Foundation, started the community fund and Regional Chair Debbie Zimmerman elected 13 members of its board of directors at the launch.

In 1921, Winnipeg became the first city in Canada to establish a community fund. Canada's community funds have combined assets of over $1.2 billion and gave over $60 million in grants last year.

"Increasingly students at the college are incurring student debt and we (the community) have a responsibility to offset the high cost of a college education," said Patterson.

If you have any questions, comments or suggestions please feel free to call us at (905)735-2211 ext. 7750, or come to room S212 at the Welland Campus.

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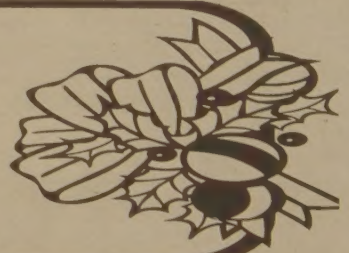

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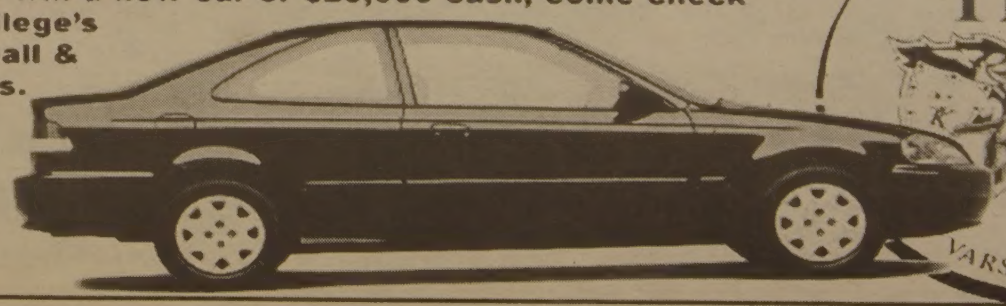


INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Helping foreign students find homes

By NAUMAN FAROOQ
Staff Writer

With an increasing number of international students coming to Niagara College each year, readers may wonder how these students find homes when they arrive.

This is the job of Stephanie Soccio-Marandola, the co-ordinator of international housing.

Soccio-Marandola, 31, of Thorold, has been at Niagara College since August 1999, but has been teaching in the English as a Second Language (ESL) program since May 1999. She is running the housing department.

Soccio-Marandola studied sociology at the University of Western Ontario in London, Ont. She was student president in Brescia College, connected to the university. She has studied and worked at Brock University in St. Catharines, where she specialized in English as a Second Language courses.

"I love this place (Niagara College). This is the most comfortable place of work I've ever been in."

Soccio-Marandola is solely responsible for the home-stay program at the college's three campuses in Welland, Niagara Falls and Niagara-on-the-Lake.

In the home-stay program, international students stay with a Canadian family in their home, to experience and learn about the Canadian lifestyle. Students get cooked meals and get the same environment as any Canadian might get.

She advertises for home stay in newspapers and flyers, but most of it is by word-of-mouth advertising.

She says when people call in to apply to be a home-stay family, she has to screen the calls to make sure the "people are doing this for the right reasons. I go out and visit the places that our students will be going to."

"I look for a warm atmosphere, there is an easy person to talk to, be easy going. I ask them how they'll deal with problem issues," says Soccio-Marandola.

Most home-stay family homes are "ideally" a 20-minute walk away but some "outstanding families" are a 40-minute walk away and have remained home-stay families because they are "so good with the students."

Students can live alone if they want to instead of with a home-stay family. They often rent basement rooms or rooms in apartment buildings, the most expensive option. Even in those cases, Soccio-Marandola says, she helps to look for places for the students.

Students pay $450 in rent a month to live with a home-stay family, which includes meals. Most home-stay families house one student, but some have two or three students living with them.

Soccio-Marandola handles troubleshooting, so if a student isn't happy with a home-stay family, she helps the student find another place.

She also takes care of special bookings for groups, such as the Colombian teachers who visited Niagara College a few months ago.

"I help recruit families and I also help in Orientation for students when they arrive," says Soccio-Marandola.

She is working on producing an informational video with the help of the Broadcasting — Radio, Television and Film program to help the Chinese students make an easier transition.

Seventy to 80 students live with home-stay families in Welland.

Soccio-Marandola says she has not travelled much, but if she had to pick where she would go for a vacation, she would visit Italy because her parents and her husband's parents are from Italy. If she had to visit a country for educational purposes, she says, she would visit Asian countries such as Korea, China and Japan.

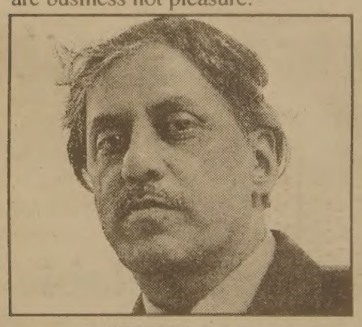
Anyone interested in becoming a home-stay parent to international students can call the college at 735-2211, ext. 7763.

STEPHANIE SOCCIO-MARANDOLA

Bangalore to Niagara

By CLINTON HAGGART
Staff Writer

Sethu Rao has come to Canada several times since 1996. His visits are business not pleasure.



SETHU RAO

Rao, principal of Acharya Pathasala (APS) Polytechnic in Bangalore, India, is working with Niagara College to develop a Geographical Information Systems program and an online course for students in India.

APS was formed in 1935 by Professor Ananlhachar on Aug. 15. Twelve years later, on the same date, India gained independence from Britain.

APS is a "mini-university" with students ranging in age from kindergarten to those getting their master's degree in arts and sciences or computer studies.

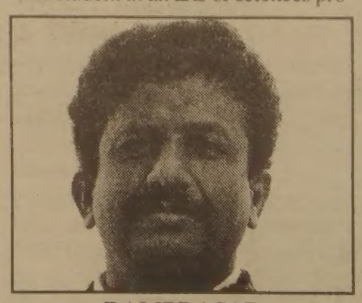
In 1996, Barrie Saxton, of the Association of Canadian Community Colleges, sought assistance from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) to expand existing programs at APS. It was considered a level two project and funding was limited to $400,000 a year.

The contract with CIDA lasts five years, so Rao and Ramprasad, the senior faculty member at APS, came to Niagara College.

"By the time we finish the five years, we want to do something with Niagara College," says Rao about developing new programs for APS.

Students at APS are divided into three categories. The first group of students is one that is considered "brilliant," but who can't afford to pay for their schooling. The second group is capable of paying, and the last group comprises non-resident students who pay about $5,000 (US) a year to attend.

A student in an arts or sciences program pays about $200 (Cdn) a year.



RAMPRASAD

Rao and Ramprasad stayed at the Renaissance Hotel, in Niagara Falls, for 20 days in late October and early November.

"It (Canada) is really wonderful. I like Canada in so many aspects. I've travelled all over the world," says Rao, adding, "I like the environment, greenery and low crime."

Rao says there is fierce competition for jobs in India because the population is more than one billion people.

ESL students having their meal at a Greek restaurant. Clockwise from left are Hawk Guo, Qiao Yan Gao, Hyo-Mi Kim, Hee-Joung Ha, Naoko Ageda, Jackie Penman, ESL social events co-ordinator, Yenny Vetri, Alfonso Parra and Veronika Cedeno. Not visible in the picture is Lin Xia.

Photo by Nauman Farooq

ESL students get a taste of foreign food

By NAUMAN FAROOQ
Staff Writer

As a continuing process to entertain and help them become acclimatized to living in Canada, students in the English as Second Language (ESL) program visit various foreign food restaurants in the Niagara region.

They recently visited a Greek restaurant and the *Niagara News* was with them to ask what they thought of the Greek food.

For a little taste of Greece, Jackie Penman, the ESL social events co-ordinator, took the students to Joe Feta's in St. Catharines.

Ten ESL students from various countries went to the restaurant to taste Greek food for the first time.

The menu caused a few problems because some students didn't know what a gyro or souvlaki was. In the end, they all got to taste some baclava, the traditional Greek dessert.

What did they think of the Greek food?

Hawk Guo, of China, said, "I like it. (I) like baclava, take home too. I (also) ate lamb and liked it."

However, Lin Xia, also from China, had a different opinion about the food. "It's different from Thai food," he said. Did you like it? "So, so," he added laughing.

Hyo-Mi Kim, of South Korea, said, "It' interesting, like feta cheese and salad. The server is very polite and friendly. I like garlic bread too."

Hee-Joung Ha, also of South Korea, had similar views. "I like it," he said. "I like trying new food. I liked feta cheese and chicken souvlaki."

Naoko Ageda, of Japan, said, "I liked Greek food. I like everything except baclava."

Greek food came as somewhat of a surprise to Veronika Cedeno, of Venezuela. "Very good," she said. "Greek food surprised me. I though it would be spicy, but it was not spicy. I changed my mind about Greek food."

The ESL students plan to visit a Thai restaurant on Dec. 6. Their last restaurant tour for this semester will be a visit to a Korean restaurant. As they say it in Korea, "Macige deseyo." That's "bon appetit" in Korean.

CAMPUS COVERAGE

College info event draws 24 of Ontario's 29 colleges

By KEVIN HARTFORD
Staff Writer

Displays were set up. Catalogues were distributed. Questions were answered.

Twenty-four of Ontario's 29 colleges participated in the province's College Information Program (CIP) event held Nov. 16 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. in the gymnasium of Niagara College's Glendale campus.

"It's when all the liaison officers get together and move around to all the colleges across the province so that the students in each area can go to one central location instead of travelling to each college," says Connie Byrns, representing Lambton College in Sarnia. "It's great for us, because then we don't have to go to every high school in Ontario. We can see all the students here without going to the 70 schools in the area."

The CIP lasts for eight weeks and takes place in colleges across Ontario. Some schools do not participate in the entire eight-week program.

"We unfortunately are unable to do the full eight weeks," says Heather Howe, representing Humber College in Etobicoke. "What we do is, we look to see where our pull area is for students, and we tend to do a lot (of events) in that area. With budget cutbacks, we can only do so much."

"A lot of the colleges work with budgetary restraints," says Godric Latimer, representing the Michener Institute for Applied Health Services in Toronto. "We're selective with the events we pick depending on where our (pull) areas are. Where we attract the most students from is the area we target. That's what all the colleges do."

Shari MacFayden, representing Confederation College in Thunder Bay, says, "What the colleges don't realize is, these small towns that we visit, there is no college there. Students have to travel to go to post-secondary school, so it's really foolish that (some colleges) don't go the full eight weeks. We're different from the UIP (University Information Program) in that it's not mandatory for every college to attend, but I would like to see the tour mandatory and have everybody do the full eight weeks."

An evening information session was held at Glendale the night before.

Connie Marion, representing St. Clair College in Windsor, says she preferred the nighttime event to the daytime event. "In terms of interest," she says, "I think you tend to get more serious questions (at nighttime events) from students who really thought about college and what they want to do, and because their parents are with them, maybe they're getting a little support in asking the right questions."

"Sometimes I think the evening events are a little more productive than the daytime events," says Maggie Macmurchy, representing Georgian College in Barrie. "The students are there because they want to be, and not because it's a day out of school."

Traci Ellis, representing Durham College in Oshawa, says the evening events can be "a little bit of both. Sometimes I find the parents can overtake the whole question-and-answer session, and are asking the questions they want to know about, and maybe the student doesn't actually get their two cents in and ask their questions. But sometimes the parents just say, 'This is my son. He's interested in this.' Then they let me talk to the son. It can go both ways."

College information events are "really helpful," says Amy Perkins, representing Loyalist College in Belleville. "I think it depends on how much the student makes out of them. It's also your way to get your own personal copy of every book. (A high school student) might not be so inclined to go to the guidance office and sit there for four hours and go through them all."

"It saves students having to do a lot of the legwork themselves," says Susan Thomas, representing Seneca College in Toronto. "Specific questions can be answered. I have materials with me that they may not be able to get otherwise."

"I think it's a good idea for people to be able to get all their information in one spot and have a real person they can talk to," says Brenda Bouchard, representing Cambrian College in Sudbury.

Randy Conlon, representing Niagara College, says, "I think high school kids are more prepared than they were 10 years ago. I think they're pretty keen and know what questions to ask. A lot of them want to know outcomes, too. Job placements. I find that they're well educated in that manner, as opposed to 'Where's the good party school?' So they're pretty good that way. It was a good event."

Niagara College representatives Randy Conlon (left) and Dave Conlon speak to prospective students at the Nov. 16 info event.
Photo by Kandis Thorsby

Variety of poinsettias available

By PAUL FINELLI
Staff Writer

The look of the greenhouse at Niagara College's Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake has become festive with its assorted poinsettias, just in time for the holidays.

Tom Ball, co-ordinator of horticulture programs in the campus's Environment, Horticulture and Agribusiness division, said students helped with the initial planting of the holiday favourites back in mid-August when the plants were "little cutlings."

Like many other greenhouse products often sold to the public, the plants are grown entirely by students in such courses as practical horticulture, plant production and greenhouse management, courses which are common to several programs.

For the Christmas season, "a whole variety of poinsettias" are ready for public sale this week, Ball said.

One kind to be sold this year is called Jingle Bells, which offers red bracts with pink flecks throughout and is "becoming more of a popular variety," he added.

Jim Thomson, a technician at the greenhouse, shared Ball's sentiments on the students' involvement and his own enthusiasm for the festive offerings.

Confirming the number of plants to be "about 2,500 six-inch pots and 250 10-inch pots," he added, "They'll be ready in prime. I would say it's one of the prime crops we've grown. They're beautiful poinsettias."

As with many of the other horticulture projects, he says the students are involved in planting, potting and growing, and then selling and informing the public how to properly care for the holiday plants.

Summing up the holiday offerings, Thomson said, "Anything

Continued on Page 5

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OPENING OUR DOORS

Muslim fasting helps develop compassion

By NAUMAN FAROOQ
Staff Writer

From Nov. 27 on, Muslims throughout the world will be celebrating the month of Ramadan, the ninth month of the year on the Muslim calendar.

What is Ramadan?

Ramadan is a month of fasting. Muslims throughout the world fast from dawn till dusk. During fasting, one cannot smoke, drink a drop of water or eat a nibble of food. Muslims practice abstinence, reflection and purification. Muslims should refrain from all indulgences, including smoking. After sunset, Muslims may practice these activities in moderation, eat special sweets and recite parts of the Quran (The Holy Book of Muslims.)

Muslims are advised to wake up early, have a meal before sunrise and say their prayers before going back to sleep or starting off on their day's activities.

After the sun has set, Muslims are allowed to break their fasts.

Unlike Western religious holidays, which have a set date on the English calendar, Ramadan does not fall on the same date each year. Since the Islamic calendar is lunar, 354 days correspond to about one lunar year. Ramadan occurs 11 days earlier each subsequent year. Thus Ramadan can occur in all four seasons of the year.

The month of Ramadan lasts for about 30 days, after which Muslims celebrate the festive holiday of Eid-ul-Fitr.

On Eid day, Muslims start the day off with a special morning prayer and then go out to meet relatives and friends. Special sweets and money are customarily given to children.

The most frequently asked question to Muslims about Ramadan is this: Why is this month given such importance in Islam?

The main reason for fasting is that it's the fourth of the five main pillars of Islam, as stated in the Quran, the book of guidance for all Muslims. Fasting also requires discipline, which makes people aware of their dependence on Allah (God) and on fellow human beings. When people experience extreme hunger for a month, they develop more compassion for the poor.

Although replete with patience-testing practices, this month is a joyous event, one that Muslims look forward to every year.

Canadian Muslims share a common experience with millions of other fellow believers who celebrate this very holy month.

Actor involves himself in social activism

By COLLIN COULIS
Staff Writer

Actor Max Gail, best known for his role as Detective Stanley Wojciehowicz, on the 1970s television sitcom Barney Miller, attended the launch of a public Internet centre at Niagara College.

Gail, 57, was on hand when the Niagara Centre for Community Leadership officially launched its Community Access Program (CAP) and Web site, at Niagara's Welland campus on Nov. 7.

CAP's goal is to provide Internet skills and access to the public.

The program is part of the federal government's Connecting Canadians initiative, which aims to make Canada the most connected nation on earth.

"(In Canada) there's a great social government policy going on with this Community Access Program. (The government) gets that places and networks are two aspects of the same thing. They get that it's about supporting (the program) whether it's in a library, a mall or a college," said Gail.

Gail is a social activist involved in many causes such as Native American rights, environmental conservation and universal access to the Internet. He is involved in Local Access Places (LAP), the American version of CAP.

"The Internet is a reflection of what's going on in real space," said the actor. Gail said he believes the Internet is not operating at its full potential because not everybody is connected to it.

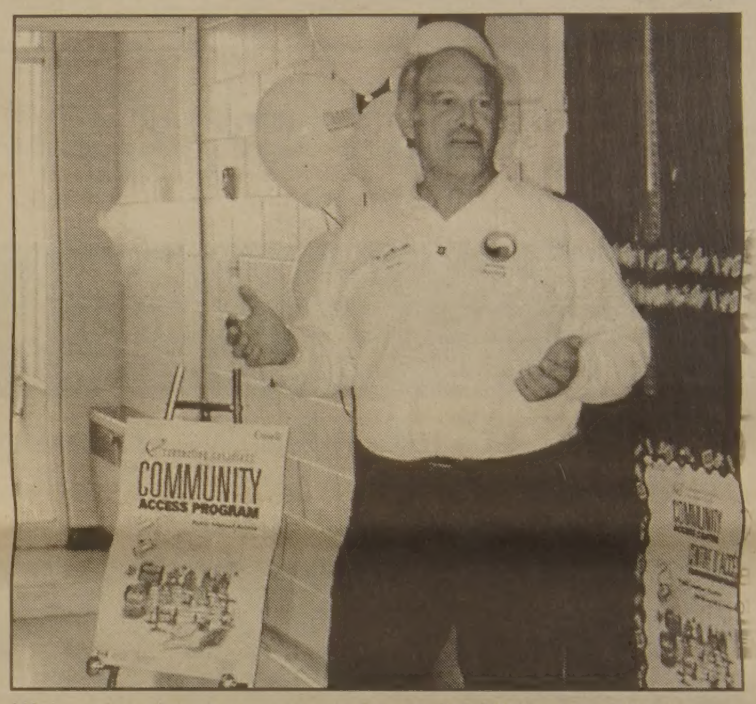
Gail taught English and history for two years in Grosse Pointe, Mich. before earning a degree from the University of Michigan Business School. While studying at the University of Michigan, he discovered acting. Gail played Det. Wojciehowicz (Wojo) on ABC's Barney Miller from 1975-82 and has made recent appearances on TV's Chicago Hope, Judging Amy and Due South.

Niagara College President Dan Patterson and Welland Mayor Dick Reuter also attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new CAP centre.

The Internet Access Centre, in the Hennepin building at the Welland campus, has four computers open for public use. The computers were funded by Industry Canada.

CAP has 15 other public Internet centres, in schools and public libraries, across 11 municipalities in the Niagara Region.

For more information about the Internet centre or CAP call (905) 735-2211 ext. 7670 or visit their Web site at www.communityleadership.net.



Wojo opens the new computer lab on the Welland campus.
Submitted photo

Alumni entrance scholars

Alumni are helping Niagara College's students achieve their goals as three students recently received Alumni Entrance Scholarship Awards. The certificates and cheques were presented for having achieved the highest overall academic averages as students entering post-secondary education for the first time. From left are Elli Hollingsworth, 17, of the Business Administration program, Anne Duguay, 19, of the same program, Don Johnston, representing the Niagara College Foundation board of directors, college President Dan Patterson and Laura Snowden, 19, of the Health Sciences Preparatory program.

Photo by Kristin Collver

First-year Horticultural Technician program student, Clare Kelly, 20, of St. Catharines, tends to the poinsettias, grown entirely by students in the horticulture programs at the Glendale campus.

Photo by Paul Finelli

Poinsettias available

Continued from Page 4

that is available in the industry is available here at the hort (greenhouse) centre."

He made it a point to reveal more good news. "We hope to make poinsettias available to the Welland campus through the bookstore."

Besides Jingle Bells, other varieties of poinsettias available include Freedom Red, Freedom White, Freedom Pink, Pink Peppermint and Monet. Prices for six-inch poinsettia pots will be $4.49 while 10-inch pots will be $13.39. As well, mumsettias will be offered for $8.99.

The greenhouse's regular business hours during the school year are weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. The flowers are available through the college's bookstores.

Advertisement

SAC Presents **Student Voice**

Paid for by the student administrative council

Welcome to the premiere of the 'Student Voice' page. This page is dedicated to informing you, the students of Niagara College, what your student council is doing. With all the events going on at the college, it is sometimes hard to keep track of when things are happening. This page will give you a summary of what we (SAC) are doing, and where we are doing it.

Well, it is that time of year again, snow is falling, lights are twinkling, wallets are emptying, it must be Christmas. Sometimes we get too wrapped up, no pun intended, in all that we have to do before Christmas, we forget what Christmas is all about.

As you run about and get your shopping done, please don't forget those less fortunate that do not have the means to purchase presents. Go down to the **LRC** at the Welland Campus and choose a child's name from the **Christmas Tree of Hope**. Purchase a gift and return it, unwrapped, with the child's name tag attached, and make at least one child's Christmas a little brighter.

SAC is also hosting its annual **Children's Christmas Party**. The party is for all Niagara College students who are parents, and wish to bring their children down for a magic show, and a special surprise guest. Oh, and let us not forget Santa Claus himself! Refreshments, cookies, and a gift will be provided for every registered child under the age of 12. Register in the SAC Office before **Monday, November 27**.

Events

Open Mike — **Tuesday, Nov. 28**

Come out to After Hours and support your fellow students as they take to the stage. Sign up at the bar if you wish to play.

Food For Friends Pub — **Thursday, Dec. 7**

Bring a non-parishable food item and get a ticket for a chance to win a portable CD Player to be drawn @ pub that night.

Class Rep. Meeting — **Dec. 5 and Dec. 7**

This is the last meeting of 2000, come out and see what we've got planned for the rest of this year, and where we are heading for 2001.

Alcohol Awareness Week — **Dec. 11 - Dec. 15**

Watch for events at all three campuses all week that promote safe and responsible drinking.

Visit us at...

www.niagarac.on.ca/~sac

For questions, comments, or concerns, or to advertise on this page call 905-735-2211 x. 7659

The Maid of the Mist Student Administrative Council in conjunction with Aramark Services is offering all students and staff at MMC a Christmas Buffet Luncheon deal. Aramark will be offering a "Turkey and all the Trimmings" buffet at the campus on Tuesday, Dec. 12 from 11 am to 1:30 pm at a cost of $4.99 per person. If any student or staff member pre-buys a ticket from SAC the cost will be ONLY $2 per person. As a Christmas gift to MMC students and staff, SAC will pay the remainder of the costs.

Tickets are on sale at the SAC office, or at the cafeteria at the Maid of the Mist campus.

SAC Awareness Week @ Welland Campus

Thank you all for helping make SAC Awareness Week a success. It was your participation that made the week the blast that it was.

Sincerely,

Ryan McLaughlin
Welland Campus SAC President

Prizes	Winners
Trip to Daytona Beach	Peter Gomes
Portable CD Player	Rob Terpersta
$10 Sam The Record Man Gift Cert.	Kristine Tilbrook
$5 Blockbuster Gift Card	Jason Gale
Aramark Food Voucher	Kristen Moore
Aramark Food Voucher	Aidan Harris

ARAMARK

SEASONS GREETINGS

CHISTMAS MENU
Garden Green Salad (choice of dressing)
Oven Roasted Turkey
Cranberry Sauce
Homemade Stuffing
Whipped Potatoes with Gravy
Honey Glazed Carrots

Assorted Breads, Fresh Rolls and Butter

Desert:
Assorted Pastry Tray, Cookies, etc.

Coffee, Tea

$4.99 plus taxes

In Celebration of the Holiday Season, Aramark will be offering Christmas Dinner in the Main Cafeteria on the following dates:

WELLAND CAMPUS
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5TH & WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6TH
Between 11:00 a.m. & 2:00 p.m.

GLENDALE CAMPUS
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7TH & FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8TH
Between 11:00 a.m. & 2:00 p.m.

MAID OF THE MIST CAMPUS
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12TH
Between 11:00 a.m. & 1:30 p.m.

TICKETS AVAILABLE IN ADVANCE AT ANY ARAMARK CAMPUS LOCATION

CHISTMAS MUSIC BY:
TROPICAL ISLANDERS CARIBBEAN STEEL BAND

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

SAC

Welland campus students don't know SAC

By HEATHER RUTA
Staff writer

Niagara News conducted an informal survey recently to determine how much the student community at Niagara College knows about the role of the Student Administrative Council (SAC).

Student councils have always been known to have a mandate of getting students more involved and of raising school spirit.

At the Welland campus knowledge about SAC among the students has almost hit rock bottom.

Of 10 students surveyed one knew that Ryan McLaughlin is the SAC president at the Welland campus. Nine people didn't know what SAC does for the school, and eight of the 10 think SAC is doing a poor job promoting its events.

Denise Pilot, 20, of Port Colborne, a student in the Educational Resources and Special Needs (ERSN) program said she would like to see "more events to get us students more involved, to have fun and to get to know more people."

James Isaak, 19, of St. Catharines, a student in the Computer Programming program, said that he would like to see "more events to keep the students interested in the school."

Other students said they think that there is no need for more events but better advertising for the upcoming events is required.

Leann Newhouse, 20, of St. Catharines, a student in the ERSN program, said that she would like to see "not more events but better advertising so that the students know what's going on and when."

All the students surveyed said that they would like to see more events such as student and slave auctions, winter festivals, tug of wars, karaoke in the pub, and more concerts.

Some of the students said they think SAC should make people more aware of who they are and what they do by advertising more across the campuses and, possibly, introducing themselves to classes around the college.

Under its constitution, SAC is responsible for putting on events in the pub and school to get students involved. They hold awareness weeks to make the students knowledgeable about issues such as sex and alcohol. SAC also puts on an annual food drive called Food for Friends. This food drive helps collect food for the poor and college students in need. SAC collects the donated food, holding it in the SAC offices for students to pick up when needed.

Patterson 'stays in touch' with SAC presidents

By HEIDI MORRISON
Staff Writer

It's a day in the life of Niagara College's president.

That is what Dan Patterson said he wanted to give the Student Administrative Council (SAC) presidents a view of at their Nov. 7 meeting.

Patterson said he wants to "stay in touch" with what is going on at the college's three campuses in Welland, Niagara-on-the-Lake and Niagara Falls.

Attending the meeting were the three SAC presidents: Ryan McLaughlin, of the Welland campus, Levent Arslen, of the Glendale campus, and Glenn Murray, Maid of the Mist campus president.

Dan Patterson, second from left, chats with SAC presidents at a recent meeting. From left are Ryan McLaughlin, Levent Arslen and Glenn Murray.

Photo by Heidi Morrison

In addition, the meeting included Steve Hudson, the college's vice-president of corporate affairs, Brigitte Chiki, director of student services, and Martha Casson, vice-president enterprise and student services.

Each of the three SAC presidents was given a chance to ask questions and voice concerns to Patterson.

McLaughlin spoke about the recent issue of student safety. A sexual assault at the Welland campus, in which an arrest has been made, has been the focus of students' concerns recently.

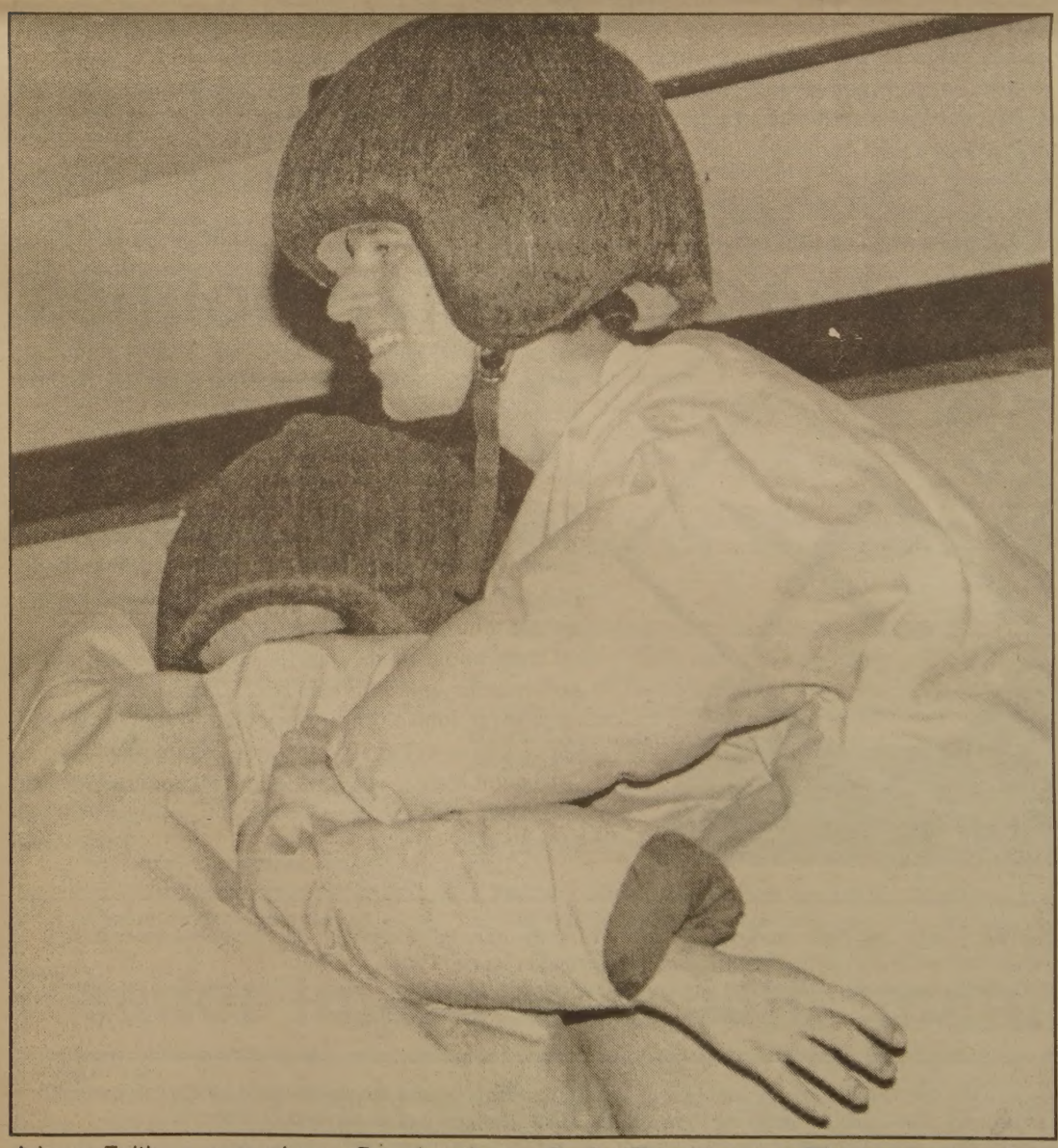
Patterson said he feels the college is "safe," but he always wants to know if students become concerned.

New renovations to the Maid of the Mist Centre campus in Niagara Falls were discussed, along with the 140-bed residence that has been proposed for the campus, which could include a weight room for all students at that campus to use.

The college facility in Niagara Falls is 50,000 square feet, but after the renovations, it will be 70,000 square feet.

Patterson said there is "more pressure for these SAC presidents" because of all that is going on with the college this year and that is why it is important "to stay informed."

Any students with questions or opinions about issues concerning the college may contact their SAC presidents at any of the three campuses. Their extensions are 7659 for Welland, 4226 for Glendale and 3645 for the Maid of the Mist campus.



Johnny Feltis, a second-year Broadcasting — Radio, Television and Film program student, grapples with Sarah Severin, 18, of the General Arts and Science program.

Photo by Scott Thomson

Sumo wrestlers battle for fun at After Hours

By BILL STEPHENSON
Staff Writer

"He kicked my ass," says Ryan McLaughlin, Welland campus's Student Administrative Council (SAC) president, describing the beating he took at last Tuesday's sumo wrestling competition in the After Hours pub.

The event, which was for fun, began at about noon and ran until 3 p.m.

McLaughlin faced fellow classmate Scott Thomson, 20. Both are second-year students in the Journalism-Print program. "It was an experience I won't soon forget," says Thomson.

Students faced off in pairs wearing gigantic sumo suits, and the matches lasted for three rounds. "This wasn't a structured event," says McLaughlin. Students came and went throughout the day and took turns wrestling. The suits contained a thick layer of padding to ensure no one could be hurt.

McLaughlin used one word to describe the suits: "hot." Refreshments were free at the pub for participants.

Brandon Robinson, 21, of the Health Science Preparatory program, and Ian Raine, 21, of the General Arts and Sciences program, both student representatives on SAC, hosted the event.

"They organized the whole thing," says McLaughlin.

Gomes Daytona bound

By BILL STEPHENSON
Staff Writer

The winner of a trip to Daytona Beach, Fla., is . . . Peter Gomes.

Last week students were filling out Student Administrative Council (SAC) surveys as part of SAC Awareness Week. Questions on the survey included the following: What does SAC stand for? Who are your student representatives? Where is the SAC office located?

Students were automatically entered in a trip draw for filling out the survey. In addition, those who wrote down their e-mail address will receive a SAC newsletter.

"Students can read the newsletter in the comfort of their own home, instead of having to come to the school to see what's going on," says Ryan McLaughlin, Welland campus SAC president.

Other prizes included a portable CD player won by Rob Terpersta, a $10 Sam The Record Man gift certificate won by Kristine Tilbrook, a $5 Blockbuster gift card won by Jason Gale, and two Aramark Food vouchers won by Kristen Moore and Aidan Harris.

EDITORIALS

The Niagara News is a practical lab for the Journalism-Print program, covering the college community and other areas of interest.
Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the management of the Niagara News or the administration of
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High school violence in news again

School violence is again on everyone's mind after two high school stabbing incidents in Calgary and Saskatoon.

Again, we are looking for someone, or something, to blame. We can't believe it happened in Canada.

In Calgary, at Lester B. Pearson High, Samer Jaber, 17-year-old male, was stabbed to death during a fight. Witnesses said the fight was over an unpaid $30 loan, although police have not confirmed this.

A 17-year-old male was arrested and charged with second-degree murder.

Almost three hours after this incident, at Bedford Road Collegiate in Saskatoon, Sask., a 15-year-old female student suffered non-life-threatening injuries after being stabbed during a fight with another female.

Both of these incidents have shaken their communities and turned everyone's attention to the violence in our schools.

The media have started pointing fingers and, possibly, overplaying the situation.

Maybe there is no big story here. Maybe these cases are simply acts of aggression, but any time incidents like these occur, the media need a scapegoat.

Maybe we should blame Marilyn Manson. He recently released an album and is known for his controversial violence-advocating lyrics. Why not blame him just as others often cite the student-driven violence behind the deaths at Columbine High School in the U.S.?

What about blaming movies? Charlie's Angels is somewhat violent, so we might as well blame it.

Television has always showcased programs or offerings emphasizing violence. Maybe that is what caused these two stabbings.

Maybe video games are the answer. They are so realistic, it is tough to tell the difference between using a fake knife and a real knife nowadays.

We can't forget the parents. Maybe they didn't love their kids enough, or they forgot to buy their child that toy he or she really wanted for Christmas. That's a licence to kill, isn't it?

Maybe the real problem lies with the person who used the knife. What a concept! Music, movies, television and video games have always been blamed as major influences in high school violence. Yet, how can someone prove that these *media are serious contributors to these acts of violence when so few students are involved in violence at schools, but so many listen to the music and play the video games?*

After all of the finger pointing has stopped, and the media blitz is over, a family is left to grieve the loss of their son.

No finger pointing or misplaced blame will bring him back.

Stephen D'Orazio

Student doesn't understand Canadian politics

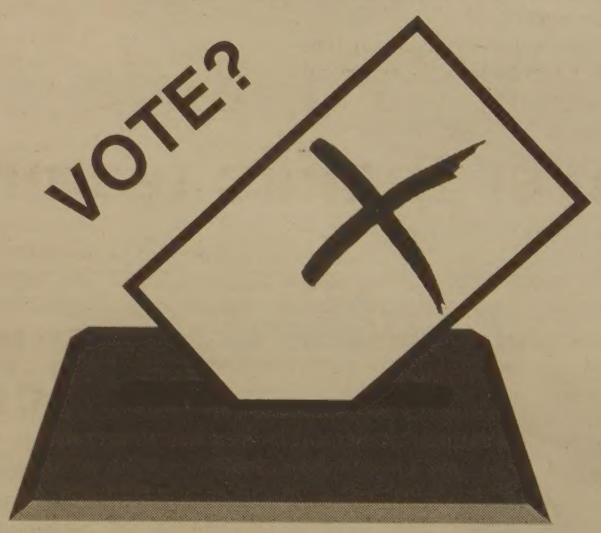
The new mayor of the city of Welland is . . .

Everything today seems to be centred on the political world. To tell you the truth, I don't really care.

Maybe I don't care because I just don't understand who's running for what and why. Maybe I don't care because I don't, and probably never will understand, all of the levels of government and what each one does.

I mean, of course, I know who our Governor General is, how she got the position and the kinds of things that she does. I also know that our prime minister is Jean Chrétien and some of the things he tries to do for our country, although not in great detail.

I know who the mayor is in my hometown and what his role is there. I think I care more about my hometown mainly because what goes on there obviously affects me more than what goes on here in Welland.



The fact that I am only going to be here for five more months accounts for my disinterest in the politics in this region.

I feel that youth don't care as much as they used to about politics. We have better things to think about. Following politics can take a lot of time and energy we don't have.

I may know more than the average person about government and politics, but I think most of the knowledge I have can be attributed to school. What I know, I have to know for my courses that I'm taking.

To put it bluntly and honestly, it all confuses me. At least I can admit it.

Tara Ford

Your voice or opinion is welcome in our Letters to the Editor section. Our policy regarding letter submissions is this: All letters must be received on the Friday one week prior to publication. Each letter must include the writer's name, college identification number and program of study.
All letters must be signed and include a day and evening telephone number for verification use only.
All letters can be mailed or brought to the Niagara News newsroom, Room S212, Simcoe Building, Welland Campus.

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Opinions and Letters

Columnist felt naked . . . felt exposed . . .

By DAN D'AMICO
Staff Writer
Column

Take a good look because there it is.

Isn't she a beauty? I think so.

Unfortunately, the powers that be, that is, the Journalism-Print program professors and instructors have told me that I am not allowed to use her. "She's no good," they say. "We can't run that," they add.

Let me tell you a little story about how my head and shoulders shot came to be.

It was one of those mornings when I couldn't stop yawning. Although I remembered it was the first day of school, I didn't want to repeat last year's kooky act of showing up 15 minutes late. Hey, I was in Year One. How was I supposed to know?

Note to students: If you are reading this and are in Year One, this is not an acceptable excuse.

Note to teachers: I am not to be held liable for ANY student using such an excuse, described herein.

Anyway, there I was . . . photography class. Within 10 minutes it felt like just another day in college. There was no magic, no excitement and no looking around the room amazed that this is a college room.

Suddenly the teacher got a grand idea. Let's go take head and shoulder shots for our soon-to-be-written columns for the *Niagara News*.

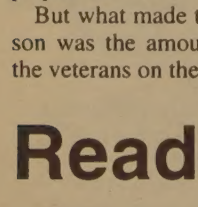
"Uh-oh," I thought. To top it off, we went in alphabetical order, and alphabetical order in my class that starts with "C" (see above name for the problem with this).

The icing wasn't put on the cake until my teacher ordered, not asked, ordered me to take my hat off.

I couldn't believe he made me do that. There was a reason for that hat. The hat was the easy way out in the morning. It was my ticket to a five-minute time saver. No need to do my hair because I had worn my hat.

There I was. I felt naked. I felt exposed. I felt robbed of my very dignity. So what did I do? Why, I did what every nude model does in that situation: I posed and I smiled for the camera.

Feeling sorry for men who make themselves look stupid



By TERRI LYNN LeBLANC
Staff Writer
Column

It's funny how you don't realize how prevalent sexism is until you are forced to face it.

Recently, I had to go to Canadian Tire, in Welland, to get my car fixed.

I walked into the auto department of the store with my boyfriend, who did not know exactly what was wrong with my car.

I walked up to the man working at the desk. He took down my name, telephone number and license plate number.

When he finally asked what was wrong with the car, he looked to my boyfriend for the answer. I was so angry that I jumped in and told him what the problem was. I felt so insulted and, actually, kind of stupid. I may not know a lot about cars, but I do know when something is not working properly.

When I went to pick up my car, the service personnel were nice to me. Of course! I had to pay them! As I walked away I thought how rude that was, and almost wanted to say something. Then I thought there was nothing I could say to change the way they treated me.

I feel sorry for the men who do this to women. All they do is make themselves look stupid.

Letters to the Editor

Help the Food for Friends drive become a success this year

Dear Editor:

On behalf of the Student Administrative Council (SAC), I invite you to join your colleagues in helping to make the 2000-01 annual Food for Friends food drive another success.

The first Food for Friends food drive took place in 1994 under the leadership of Larry Coté, a now-retired School of Business faculty member.

The annual food drive has since been supplemented by the Needy Student Fund, an Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU) Local 242 initiated resource for needy students on behalf of its retirees and faculty members who have left the college.

Both the Food for Friends food drive and the Needy Student Fund have received generous donations from staff and various groups, including OPSEU 242 and OPSEU 243, the Niagara Administrative Staff Association, and specific program areas such as Social Service Worker and Human Relations.

The Food for Friends food drive and the Needy Student Fund are excellent examples of how our college community works together for the good of the student.

It's hard to imagine in this day and age that college students are impoverished enough to seek food from a food bank. But some of our students do — on a regular basis — and many of our own food drive recipients are single parent students with small children struggling to make ends meet.

All donations of food are welcome — in particular, cereal, soups, cans of meat, juices, peanut butter, pastas and sauce, along with comfort foods like tea, cookies, crackers, jam and leftover Halloween candy. Personal hygiene items like shampoos (trial and samples are perfect), Kleenex, toothpaste and soaps are also appreciated.

As departments and divisions begin staff holiday planning, you may want to consider activities related to fund (or food) raising that will benefit the Food for Friends or Needy Student Fund campaigns.

The student you help may be the one sitting in front of you.

Watch for the brightly coloured drop-off boxes in the college hallways.

For further information, please contact any of the SAC members at your campus in Welland, Niagara Falls or Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Dan Patterson,
Niagara College president,
Brigitte Chiki,
Student Services director

College rugby player thanks teammates for fun year

Dear Editor:

As a new member of the Niagara Knights varsity rugby team, I would like to thank the team and a few people who made this one of the most memorable and rewarding years I have had the honour of playing.

Now maybe I should explain why I say this. The team itself was definitely not one of the strongest or most-skilled teams I have played on.

But what made this such an amazing season was the amount of heart displayed by the veterans on the team and, most of all, by the rookies.

These guys came out on the field twice a week to learn a sport which most of them had little or no knowledge of. But this did not stop them. If anything, it made the players more determined to succeed, which was shown and seen in the games played.

For a team that was basically deemed the "bad news bears" of rugby, we came through and placed fifth in the provincial finals.

This was where I had the honour of witnessing and being a part of a team with more character and heart than I ever thought or deemed possible.

Some of the veterans and rookies I feel should be mentioned for their determination and will to strive for nothing less than their best include Wes McLachlin, Al Ward, Big Ray and Steve Bougue. These guys showed great leadership and skill levels, which moved down to the ranks of the following rookies: Joe Robson, Scottie Scheffield, Doug Vincer, Clinton Bliss and last, but definitely not least, Derek, aka Dough Boy.

But a season cannot be possible without the time and effort given by our coaches. A special thanks goes to Keith Jones and Ken Everett, and also our trainer, Rachel, who probably saw more ugliness than anyone should see.

Once again, thanks for such a fun and honourable year.

Graham Parker,
Vancouver, B.C.
Recreation and Leisure
(Post-graduate) program
Niagara College
Welland campus

Reader impressed with 'maturity' of Niagara News

Dear Editor:

Many thanks for mailing the last four issues of *Niagara News*. I am impressed by the extent to which the *Niagara News* is beginning to display the maturity of a daily newspaper. I liked the Nov. 10th articles about the sacrifices Canadian soldiers made in World War Two, especially an article in which the writer wrote that it will seem strange when all the veterans have passed away.

Six months ago I read an article in the Toronto Star in which a scientist stated that major advances by science make it likely that during the next 50 years individuals will be able to live to the age of 120. That statement made an impression on me. I'm still in good health at the age of 87, and now I walk an hour every day so I will still enjoy good health when I celebrate my 120th birthday.

Cordially yours,
Louis Ziff
Stevensville, Ont.

Federal Election 2000

Niagara Centre

TOM PRUE Canadian Action	BERNIE LAW Canadian Alliance	TONY TIRABASSI Liberals	RON WALKER Marxist-Leninist	MIKE GRIMALDI New Democratic	JOE ATKINSON Progressive Conservative
Age: 68 **Lives**: Fort Erie **Occupation**: • consultant for the Injured Workers Coalition **Main Issues**: • renegotiate NAFTA, North American Free Trade Agreement with the United States • stricter control of monitoring drinking water • no snap elections, would be held every four years on a preset date	**Age**: 55 **Lives**: Pelham **Occupation**: • accountant at Gillespie Pontiac Buick Cadillac **Main Issues**: • the unity of a national health care system with national standards of care • tax system • changes to the Criminal Code of Canada to promote safer communities	**Age**: 43 **Lives**: Thorold **Occupation**: • wireless service representative for Talk Wireless **Main Issues**: • environment – balance industry with environmental needs • work with municipal governments to bring their needs to a federal level	**Age**: 50 **Lives**: Welland **Occupation**: • factory labourer at GenCore for 26 years **Main Issues**: • create a citizens' committee to discuss major issues • debt – figure out whom the money is owed to, determine logistics of payment, and if it's to be paid	**Age**: 49 **Lives**: Welland **Occupation**: • works for the Ministry of Labour **Main Issues**: • lack of funding and accountablity to health care • Liberals underfunded health while the Canadian Alliance want a two-tier health system • does not want massive tax cuts for the wealthy	**Age**: 45 **Lives**: Thorold **Occupation**: • computer consultant/ network technician **Main Issues**: • make funding to health care stable and long term • opposes gun control, considers the issue a form of massive bureaucracy and not in favour of how the government set up the service

St. Catharines

RANDY (TAYLOR) DUMONT Canadian Alliance	TILLY BYLSMA Christian Heritage	WALT LASTEWKA Liberals	ELAINE COUTO Marxist-Leninist	JIM MORRIS Natural Law	JOHN BACHER New Democratic	KEN ATKINSON Progressive Conservative
Age: 44 **Lives**: St. Catharines **Occupation**: • former radio host for St. Catharines radio station 610 CKTB • newspaper columnist **Main Issues** • debt reduction plan to be put into law • provide stable, guaranteed health care funding to provinces • young offenders be made more accountable for their crimes	**Age**: 53 **Lives**: St. Catharines **Occupation**: • homemaker **Main Issues**: • introduce a tax rebate for stay-at-home-moms • pay off the national debt within 30 years • capital punishment for heinous crimes • restitution – make punishment suit the crime *Party name will not be on ballot*	**Age**: 60 **Lives**: St. Catharines **Occupation**: • an industrial engineer by trade • became MP for St. Catharines in 1993 and again in 1997 **Main Issues**: • education – money for training students in post-secondary institutions • immigration – local immigration concerns and input regarding the new Immigration Act	**Age**: 39 **Lives**: Etobicoke **Occupation**: • office worker **Main Issues**: • build constituency communities to discuss problems facing our nation, then present solutions for the discussed problems • feels education and health care are basic human rights	**Age**: 53 **Lives**: Embro **Occupation**: • lead hand at Dura-Automotive **Main Issues**: • create pollution-free industry • create a beautification program of Canada's land, to increase creativity, along with jobs • have a Vedic administration based on natural laws of the earth	**Age**: 45 **Lives**: St. Catharines **Occupation**: • author **Main Issues**: • environment – feel the environment causes premature deaths in Canada due to pollution and pesticide usage • reverse cuts made to health care in past years • propose freezes on tuition rates for post-secondary education	**Age**: 53 **Lives**: St. Catharines **Occupation**: • lawyer for 25 years • is a former Member of Parliament from 1988 to 1993 **Main Issues**: • amend the Canada Health Act to state that funding to health care *not be cut in exchange* for a balanced budget • raise tax exemption to $12,000 by 2005

Erie – Lincoln

WILLIAM SCHLEICH Canadian Action	DEAN ALLISON Canadian Alliance	DAVID BYLSMA Christian Heritage	JOHN MALONEY Liberal	JOHN GREGORY Natural Law	JODY DIBARTOLOMEO New Democratic	DAVID HURREN Progressive Conservative
Age: 50 **Lives**: Beamsville **Occupation**: • chemical formulater **Main Issues**: • attempt to prevent the sell-out of Canada by foriegn companies • since the North American Free Trade Agreement, 13,000 Canadian-based companies have been sold to foriegn companies	**Age**: 35 **Lives**: Beamsville **Occupation**: • small business owner, owns four Wendy's restaurants in the Niagara Region **Main Issues** • assist Erie-Lincoln for becoming a choice location for development and growth of businesses • maintain strong representation at the municipal and provincial level	**Age**: 30 **Lives**: Vineland **Occupation**: • independent cabinet door manufacturer • unsuccessfully ran in two previous elections **Main Issues:** • possession of child pornography would be made illegal • individual investment accounts would replace Canada Pension Plans *Party name will not be on ballot*	**Age**: 53 **Lives**: Port Colborne **Occupation**: • lawyer for 19 years • became MP for the Niagara Region in 1993, and re-elected in 1997 **Main Issues** • marshal resources of the national government to provide leadership. • successfully manage the nation's finances	**Age**: 45 **Lives**: Ridgeway **Occupation**: • self-employed in marketing **Main Issues** • use money for health care for prevention purposes through inexpensive healing programs • prevent crime – reduce the stress put on individuals and society	**Age**: 31 **Lives**: Port Colborne **Occupation**: • construction site safety inspector in North York • worked as a teacher's assistant at Brock University and University of Ottawa **Main Issues** • environmental and ecological issues • opposes tax cuts for big banks and businesses	**Age**: 53 **Lives**: Fort Erie **Occupation**: • lawyer for 25 years **Main Issues** • introduce a new Youth Justice bill, such as the bill still in debate when Parliament dissolved • increase non-taxable income to $12,000 a year • 25-year payback on debt reduction

Niagara Falls

Chart information was compiled by Jennifer Chornley

MEL GRUNSTEIN Canadian Alliance	CLARA TARNOY Green Party of Canada	GARY PILLITTERI Liberals	WILLIAM AMOS Natural Law	ED BOOKER New Democratic	TONY BALDINELLI Progressive Conservative
Age: 54 **Lives**: Niagara Falls **Occupation**: • locksmithing business owner **Main Issues**: • democratization of Parliament – represent constituency instead of leader • lower taxes – slowly reduce the Goods and Services Tax (GST)	**Age**: 68 **Lives**: Niagara-on-the-Lake **Occupation**: • retired school teacher **Main Issues** • concerned about humanity's impact on the environment • too many health problems due to pesticides, other harmful practices, polluted air, water • wants a sustainable future for generations to come	**Age**: 64 **Lives**: Niagara-on-the-Lake **Occupation**: • MP for Niagara Falls riding since 1993 • family operates Pillitteri Estates Winery • was an alderman for Niagara-on-the-Lake for one term **Main Issues** • wants a single-tier, non-privatized health system	**Age**: 54 **Lives**: Niagara Falls **Occupation**: • property manager • real estate sales person **Main Issues**: • introduce 10,000 yogic flyers • create a disease-free society through prevention-oriented education and natural medicine	**Age**: 26 **Lives**: St. Catharines **Occupation**: Law Clerk and Student **Main Issues**: • would like to make greater investments in health care areas such as home care and pharmacare, universal prescriptive medicine • short and long term environmental initiatives for a "green investment"	**Age**: 35 **Lives**: Niagara Falls **Occupation**: • public affairs/ public relations consultant for Hill and Knowlton **Main Issues** • introduce a tax credit to students repaying the Canada Student Loan at a maximum of 10% of loan principal per year • eliminate scholarship taxation

LOOK THIS WAY USA

Marijuana Party wants to end weed prohibition

By MATT WATLING
Staff Writer

"We are not politicians, we are just trying to make the situation better," says Sean Keir, of the Marijuana Party.

Keir, 26, will be running in the Nov. 27 federal election for the Marijuana Party in the Danforth riding of Toronto.

He says the party's main goal is to end marijuana prohibition and remove all criminal sanctions related to cannabis.

"It is important to raise awareness," says Keir. "Most age groups are very supportive if you explain the situation."

He says most of the support comes from people between the ages of 25 to 35.

In Quebec in 1998, about 10,000 voters gave their support to end marijuana prohibition, eventually leading to the formation of Quebec's Bloc Pot. Marc-Boris St-Maurice, founder and leader of the Bloc Pot, is serving as the leader of the Marijuana Party.

Keir first raised public awareness on ending marijuana prohibition by helping organize the May 6 Millennium March in Toronto. It was marked in 85 countries. He has no political experience.

Keir says it is necessary to "get rid of any criminal sanctions" related to cannabis. He says he feels it is unfair that some citizens in Canada have a permanent record for marijuana possession, limiting their ability to travel freely outside Canada.

More than 30,000 charges are laid each year against Canadians, for possession and other marijuana-related charges, says Keir. "By decriminalizing marijuana, more police time towards (controlling) harder drugs can be made.

"Marijuana is not like cigarettes and alcohol. It's actually a healthy choice."

He says 10 per cent of the population of Canada, about two million people, admits to using marijuana on a regular basis.

The Addictions Research Foundation says there are no records of cannabis causing death and it is the least toxic of consumed substances, compared to 16,000 alcohol related deaths and 35,000 deaths related to cigarettes.

Keir says the Canadian government could earn $20 billion a year from sales of marijuana, if it is legalized.

He says access to medical marijuana must be provided. People suffering from illnesses such as glaucoma, HIV and other terminal illnesses have used marijuana in the past. The mild hallucinogen is said to bring relief of patient's suffering. However, using marijuana may come at a large price if you are caught by law officials. The laws of Canada state that a first offence for possession carries a fine up to $1,000 and/or a six-month jail term. A second offence carries a fine up to $2,000 and/or a one-year jail term. If you are caught cultivating marijuana, a seven-year jail term can be your fate.

The Marijuana Party says it plans to change Canadian law, and pardon all who have criminal records.

"We aren't going to win," says Keir, who added his party wants to inform citizens on the current laws of marijuana.

"Either way the government has to change the laws by July 31, 2001." This is the deadline for Ottawa to change the law pertaining to marijuana possession.

Candidate says his party's tax plan 'is much better'

By JENNIFER CHORNLEY
Staff Writer

He listened and he changed.

Bernie Law, 55, is the Canadian Alliance Party candidate in the Nov. 27 federal election for Niagara Centre.

An accountant from Pelham, Law has worked for 29 years at Gillespie Pontiac - Buick - Cadillac in Welland.

The newly minted Canadian Alliance candidate has 30 years' experience working with the Progressive Conservative Party (PC) during provincial and federal elections. He worked with Ellis Morningstar in the late 1960s until 1975 and was asked to be a delegate in four previous elections, but turned down the offer because his boys were still young. He says he believed experience was required to become a candidate.

Law says he became part of the new Canadian Alliance Party because "listening to (party leader) Stockwell Day in the summer of 2000 he truly inspired me to join the Alliance Party and give up the sinking ship of the PC Party. The new directions, and the party, bring it to a point where it is truly time for a change. Day has all the qualities of a fine Canadian leader."

BERNIE LAW

Transfer payments, health care and tax cuts are some of the issues Law discussed recently in a telephone interview with the *Niagara News*.

He says the Canadian Alliance Party would legislate federal transfer payments into law, so the provinces can plan future budgets.

"The access to quality health care for Canadians would also be improved, especially when families need health care the most. Long-term funding to the provinces will be another aspect introduced so the health care system can be rebuilt with confidence, along with working with provinces to ensure national standards of care."

Another key issue for Law is the Criminal Code of Canada. Law says he'd like to promote safer streets and introduce tougher sentencing for repeat offenders. Changes to the Young Offender's Act would also be made so "serious offenders don't get away scot-free."

For this accountant, it's the numbers that tell the story. He says, if the Canadian Alliance Party was in power, a family of four would save about $1,600 in taxes annually. If the Alliance plan were implemented, taxes would be 24 per cent less in the current budget. "Our plan is much better."

"The Brain Drain is killing us. The tax system is so high Canada cannot compete with the world. Canadian businesses are leaving Canada to go to the U.S. and are then selling their products back to Canada."

Law explained the Canadian Alliance Party would increase the basic personal tax exemption from $7,161 to $10,000.

When voting on issues in parliament Law says, if elected, "My vote will be according to the wishes of the people from Niagara Centre. My vote is your vote."

Law and his wife Susan have been married for 32 years. They have two sons, Steven, 27, who works as an environmental engineer, and Michael, 25, who works at Casino Niagara.

New Democratic Party addressing important issues like social spending

By ANDREW SOVRAN
Staff Writer
Column

Come election day, I will be casting my vote for the New Democratic Party (NDP). For various reasons, this is a decision I have made with very little enthusiasm.

I vote for the NDP because the labour movement supports them. However, I've always been skeptical about what a federal NDP government would actually accomplish.

My fears stem from the actions of provincial NDP governments, primarily that of former Ontario premier Bob Rae, who have proven that the NDP is a timid party of compromise.

I feel it's high time for a labour party which is unafraid to take on big business and seriously champion the interests of working people. That is the only way we're going to be able to eliminate the major problems which plague Canadian society.

Furthermore, the NDP has drifted toward the centre in recent years. Their 1999 national convention included a flurry of promises about tax-cuts and balanced budgets. These decisions alienated many key New Democrat supporters within the labour movement.

Nevertheless, the NDP are the only party seriously addressing issues like child poverty, homelessness and the environment, to mention a few. They're also the only party with a detailed, clear vision for health care in Canada.

The damage the Liberals have done to our health care system is reason enough to vote against them. The NDP has consistently stood in opposition to these cuts, and has been the only party to seriously voice concern over the fear of a two-tiered health care system.

NDP leader Alexa McDonough rightfully says the trend towards a two-tier system has been accelerated by the Liberal's cuts. After looking at Canadian Alliance leader Stockwell Day's record on privatization, the NDP are left as the only choice for assuring universal health care in Canada.

I've also respected the NDP for opposing the Liberal's deep cuts to programs like Employment Insurance, which has left the majority of unemployed workers without a leg to stand on.

Running at about eight per cent in the polls, it's clear the NDP have no shot at forming the next government. Some political analysts say the NDP is in serious danger of losing their official party status in the House of Commons.

I'm puzzled as to why this is. On Nov. 3, Canadian Press reported that the majority of people surveyed in a nationwide Decima Research Survey said they feel strongest about an issue that's consistently voiced by the NDP.

About 52 per cent of people surveyed said social spending should be the primary use of the surplus. The issue was followed by the two major Liberal/Alliance concerns of debt reduction (at 24 per cent) and tax cuts (at 21 per cent.)

These issues should have made this election a much more even race. On Nov. 27, I'll be voting with my conscience, and for a party which is addressing the real issues.

Grow up and be responsible; not voting is an ulcer that affects society

By SCOTT THOMSON
Staff Writer
Column

It seems like only yesterday that I was hanging around with my friends, walking the streets aimlessly, without a care in the world.

Those nights were the best times of my life. Nothing mattered back then. Life was fun.

I never thought those days would end.

I had planned on being a carefree teenager forever. The thought of responsibility never crossed my mind and I never thought it would.

Recently, everything has changed.

It all started this summer when a friend and I were heading to local bar for a night out.

It was a tradition to us. Come Thursday night, you could count on the fact that Joe and I would be heading out to let lose and have fun.

One night however, Joe asked me when was it all going to end? We were now adults and within a few years some of my friends would have careers or even be married with kids.

To be honest, this was the first time I had ever thought about life like that.

It depressed me.

I cannot imagine life any different than the way I'm accustomed and these thoughts were entirely out of the norm.

Ever since that day my outlook on life has changed. I've really started to question my life and what I have to be thankful for.

This is not an easy thing to do.

I asked a lot of questions but received few answers. I found myself not sleeping at night and getting down on the world in general.

I had always thought my life was complete. I found out I was wrong.

Since I determined I was no longer a child, I had to find things to occupy my life. I started to read more books and write music as a stress reliever.

I found by doing this I started to smile again. The world was bright, like it once had been.

Then Prime Minister Jean Chrétien called a federal election.

I am the first to admit I loathe our government. Special-interest groups and money corrupt our leaders. Legal tender is what really controls this country.

Soon after Chrétien called his election, I got angry. I did not believe in democracy and I figured my vote was just wasted.

After all, why would some fat-cat in Ottawa care about me?

I was not going to vote because I was disgusted with all the political bulls**t I've seen in the media. The politicians are self-interested and are too weak to stir up any real change in Canada.

While I still stand by my convictions, I have decided to participate in our most sacred privilege, voting.

The recent elections south of the border have proven to me that my vote does count.

The people of the state of Florida have chosen the next president without any corporate dollars leading the way.

The events of Nov. 7 inspired me.

Our votes do count.

If you don't feel like voting for the Liberals or the Tories, don't.

Vote for the Green Party or the Communist Party. Vote with your heart.

On Nov. 27, please help take the power back from the corporations.

YOUTH IN POLITICS

City councillor, 21, eyes political future

By JOËL D. HERRINGTON
Staff Writer

Korey J. Kennedy, 21, may have made Canadian municipal government history on Nov. 10, 1997, with his election to Cornwall city council at the age of 18.

After three years in council, Kennedy says he has gained the trust of Cornwall's citizens.

Kennedy says his dream is to become prime minister by 2016.

Kennedy was born on Sept. 17, 1979, in Cornwall, Ont., a place he calls home. From elementary school to secondary school, Kennedy attended French Catholic schools. Today, he is studying political science and history at the University of Ottawa.

As a councillor, Kennedy's responsibilities include security, fire, libraries, schools, parks, garbage collection, sidewalks, public works, economic development and transit.

After reading Pierre Elliott Trudeau's biography at 15, Kennedy says he began thinking about a career in politics. "I was drawn to Trudeau's rationale with politics," he says, adding, "The decisions we (local councillors) make affect the people we serve. He (Trudeau) opened my eyes to the political scene."

Trudeau, who passed away in October, was responsible for invoking police powers to counter the terrorist acts of separatism from the Front de Libération du Québec in 1970. He oversaw the rewriting of the federal constitution that became law in 1982.

Another of his positive influences was Ron Martelle, 58, and his outlook on municipal government, says Kennedy. Martelle was Cornwall's mayor during the Akwesasne smuggling war against the native Americans of Cornwall Island in 1992-93.

Kennedy added his family to his list of positive influences.

During high school, Kennedy says he and his English teacher, Hanz Shultz, had some great discussions about politics. Shultz is an NDP (New Democratic Party) and I'm closer to the middle Liberal views. We had some good debates.

Kennedy has two sisters. Kim Jette, 30, is a day-care teacher who is married and lives in Ottawa. Kelly, 31, teaches at the University of Notre Dame located in the city of

KOREY J. KENNEDY
Photo submitted by the Standard-Freeholder in Cornwall

Notre Dame, Indiana. Kennedy says he decided to enter the 1997 municipal elections in July. He was 17 and had just finished his Grade 12. Kennedy says his chances of winning were "fairly decent, and progressed each passing day of the campaign." There are 10 available alderman positions on municipal council and Kennedy finished 10th in the ballots.

"I wanted to show that I wasn't just any 17-year-old," says Kennedy, adding he was serious about the councillor position. Kennedy says he did "extensive" canvassing to let the community know he was running.

With the combination of the councillor position and having to commute to Ottawa each day, Kennedy says he "had to regress with the social life." Therefore, Kennedy says he does not have much time for hobbies and pastimes.

Kennedy says that when he does have some spare time he'll attend an Ottawa Senators' hockey game, play lacrosse or snuggle up with a "good" political book.

However, Kennedy says he still finds time to chat and hangout with his friends from his high school days. "For sure!" he says.

Enrolled in the third year of a four-year post-secondary program, Kennedy says university life is not what he expected. "I haven't had the chance to experience anything . . . I disagree with their (professors') method of teaching. The majority of work and learning is done alone."

Aside from these distractions, Kennedy says he is "absolutely" running for municipal council in November. "Some people want me to run for mayor," he says, adding his running for mayor would be a "disservice" to the city of Cornwall at present. He says he'll run for councillor once more. "I want more chance to get experience and understanding for politics," he says, adding he would like to finish his education first before submitting himself to the responsibilities of mayor.

There are similar cases to Kennedy's. In 1980, Steven Clark, 21, was elected as mayor of Brockville, Ont.

Kennedy says he doesn't know Clark, but has indirectly been influenced by him. Moreover, Kennedy says Clark's success and popularity have helped to put the people of Cornwall at ease.

After being accepted at Ottawa University and elected to municipal council, Kennedy says "it was rather difficult" commuting to Ottawa. Of all 10 councillors assisting Cornwall Mayor Brian Sylvester, Kennedy says he's the only one still in school.

Kennedy says he's getting adjusted to commuting and feels he has adapted fairly easily. "Council is fairly hefty; it's 365 days a year," says Kennedy, adding the position is only part time, yet every day he is thinking of ways to improve the local economy.

During the night of the elections, Kennedy says he was surrounded with 50 supporters, mostly family and friends. When the results from the ballots were posted and Kennedy was elected, he says, he felt dumbfounded. "I was blown away. I had tears of joy running down my face. My family was ecstatic 'cause it was quite an honour."

Throughout the whole campaign of 1997, Kennedy says it was "an uphill battle" trying to endure the reactions and comments of those who opposed him. Kennedy says he wanted to show them he was just as qualified as anyone for the position. "I want them to see that I'm the best politician — past, present and future. I can do anything a seasoned politician of 50 or 60 can do."

Kennedy says there are 75 scheduled meetings a year. The topics covered at the meetings often vary, says Kennedy. "Any problem could arise, so we must be on top of things."

There are three ways for city council to make decisions concerning local services and responsibilities: councillors can raise certain issues at council meetings; municipal staff can make comments and recommendations; or individuals, groups and businesses can make proposals for certain issues to be considered.

Earlier this year, Kennedy brought to light a $5.6 million undiscovered deficit. During this time, Cornwall was proclaiming its government and departments were clean and debt free. Amid this scandal, Kennedy says there were some missing files: a pay equity error of $850,000, money owed to the former Cornwall Aces 'AAA' hockey club, a soil issue miscommunication of $40,000 and a few other things that dated back to the mid-1990s.

"I wanted to bring in an auditor to check the books, to locate any criminal ties and find out who was involved." However, Kennedy was unable to convince council to have a forensic audit. Kennedy wanted council to assign two members to review the budget of each department bi-annually. This request was denied. Kennedy says some council members were upset by his course of action.

Besides that controversy, Kennedy says city council is elected at large representing the entire population rather than a specific section of the city and its members work together to cover municipal affairs.

Cornwall's annual budget will near $100 million by the end of the fiscal year, says Kennedy. Since local municipalities can't be certain of the amounts of tax money from the federal and provincial government they'll receive, it is hard to create some sort of surplus, says Kennedy. "(The) municipal economy is very unpredictable."

Cornwall's future seems bright, says Kennedy.

He says jobs are on the rise, while unemployment and welfare are decreasing. "Wal-Mart's new distribution centre will create over 300 jobs."

As Kennedy looks into the future, he says that relations around the council table are his biggest concern. "The others are more focused on personal stature, photo opportunities and being politically correct," says Kennedy of the older, more seasoned council members.

Asked whether or not he can see this problem being resolved in the near future, Kennedy says "no." It's a battle of the idealistic versus the old boys' club," he says, adding a few councillors would rather do nothing.

"Infrastructure is doing quite well." Infrastructure encompasses roads, sidewalks, waterlines, sewer lines and storm sewers. There are no big problems, yet council has worked hard over the past three years to be in such an excellent position, says Kennedy.

The more experience he acquires, the more support he receives in his municipality, says Kennedy, adding the career options are endless for someone in his political position. However, he says he would prefer to stay in Cornwall for the next couple of municipal elections. "I enjoy the people and see great potential in the future for Cornwall and its growth."

During the recent municipal election on Nov. 13, Kennedy was second in total votes among the 10 councillors that were elected.

Finally, Kennedy contemplates what would happen if politics doesn't work out. "Back-up plan? Police forensics," he says.

Niagara's ESL students meet prime minister

By CLINTON HAGGART
Staff Writer

"I used to watch TV every night. He (Jean Chrétien) has a problem with his mouth," says Margie Kim, 23, of Seoul, South Korea, while pinching the corner of her mouth, "but when I met him it was much better."

On Nov. 10, Prime Minister Jean Chrétien visited Peninsula Ridge Estates Winery in Beamsville as part of his cross-Canada election campaign and several Niagara College English as a Second Language program students went to meet him.

"He's not bad," says Kristen Tseng, 25, of Taipei, Taiwan. "He tried to shake hands with everybody."

Midori Iwamoto, 28, of Tokyo, Japan, has been in Canada for seven months. "I never even met the Japanese prime minister, so I was a little bit excited," says Iwamoto. "It was a good chance for me."

Nubia Zambrano, 25, of Bogota, Colombia, says Chrétien was nice; he was very friendly. Zambrano says Chrétien talked a little about politics.

Kim says Chrétien made a comment about immigration when he saw so many international students.

Prime Minister Jean Chrétien poses with ESL students at Peninsula Ridge Estates Winery in Beamsville.

Photo submitted

Chrétien says, "Canada is a country of opportunity." Asked if she agrees, Kim says it's much better than the United States.

Kim and Tseng say they have seen big changes in the governments of their homelands. South Korea's prime minister visited North Korea for the first time in 50 years. Kim says, "It is a big change. Before we didn't send anyone there."

Taiwan's new leader wants to separate from China. Tseng says, "A lot of people are afraid Mainland China will invade." She added half the people want to give the new leader a second chance and half the people want to get rid of him.

Kim says going to the winery during Chrétien's visit was a good experience. She says, "We usually go to something like the pumpkin farm." Tseng added, "I like the pumpkin farm because there are no pumpkins in Taiwan."

Iwamoto says the fall term is the best time to attend school because there are so many events, such as Thanksgiving, Halloween and Christmas.

On Dec. 8, Zambrano is finished her program and will be returning to Colombia.

Kim is leaving on Dec. 21 to visit Montreal, Jasper, Alta., and Vancouver before returning to Korea in January 2001.

ON THE NATIONAL SCENE

Niagara initiates new landmine committee

By JENNIFER CHORNLEY
Staff Writer

Niagara College has extended its partnership with the Canadian Landmine Association by establishing a new committee on Nov. 2 in an effort to clear the world of landmines.

This committee was created after Daniel Livermore, ambassador for Landmine Action, spoke at a presentation for the college on Oct. 27.

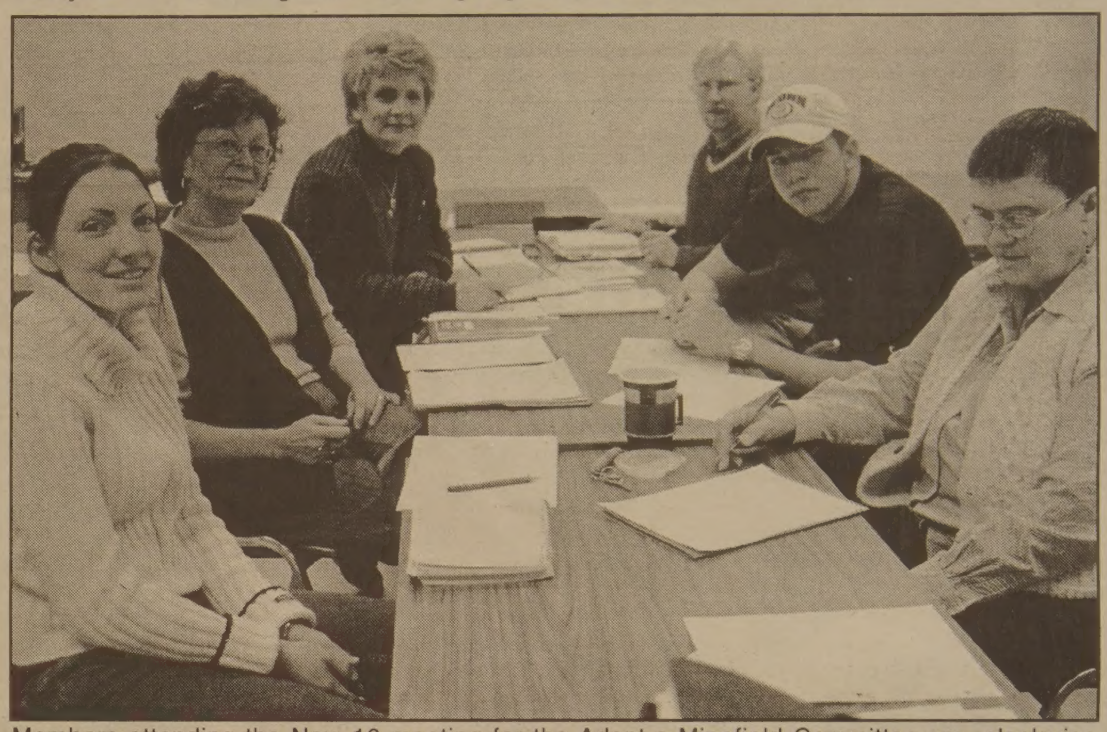
Known as the Adopt-a-Minefield Committee, it is co-chaired by Betty Ann Chandler, 51, a professor in the English as a Second Language (ESL) program, and Sean Taylor, a first-year Journalism-Print program student from Oakville, Ont.

The purpose of this committee is to eventually raise enough money so the Niagara College flag can be flown in a landmine-free school playground where children can play without fear of being harmed.

A number of staff members from the college, along with students, make up the committee. Also participating are Student Administrative Council (SAC) presidents Ryan McLaughlin, Welland campus, and Glenn Murray, of the Maid of the Mist Centre campus.

Michael Wales, 31, communications officer for the college's Marketing and Communications Department, is a former reporter for the Fort Erie Times-Review. He says he had a brief assignment in Bosnia, so he had "first-hand opportunity" to see what landmines are and the work required to clear them.

Mary Lou Eden is the treasurer of the committee and a professor in the ESL program. She has been teaching English since 1986, and concentrates on grammar and essay writing. Eden, 60, says she is committed to the idea of peaceful initiatives around the world. "It's a terrible cost for children and women to pay," she says, regarding the harm caused by landmines.



Members attending the Nov. 16 meeting for the Adopt-a-Minefield Committee are, clockwise from left, Sherry McGratton, JoAnne Miani, Betty Ann Chandler, Michael Wales, Sean Taylor and Mary Lou Eden.

Photo by Jennifer Chornley

JoAnne Miani, 55, is the divisional secretary to the dean of Foundation Studies. Miani says she has an interest in social justice issues. She is the chair of the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development, an organization interested in these issues. "We are working towards a more just society."

Sherry McGratton, 19, says, "This is for a worthwhile cause and I feel bad for the kids who get their arms and legs blown off." McGratton will be starting the Journalism-Print program in January.

Chandler attended the landmine presentation and remembered what Livermore said to her. "He said, 'You can change it!' It just bit me somehow. I am working for a social issue I had to take on."

Taylor, 20, has travelled in areas such as North Korea, South Korea and Nepal for a year and he says, "It's amazing how I can be one step where I shouldn't be and be blown away." He says there is too much talk among world leaders and not enough action to remove the "death traps."

McLaughlin says the committee "is an excellent cause. This will allow Niagara College to set an example for other colleges to follow." He says the SAC should get involved within the community and the world.

Murray says the committee "is a great idea for the college's leadership. *It is a very important issue since landmines are everywhere and it prevents people around the world from living free lives.*"

TO THE STUDENTS OF NIAGARA COLLEGE

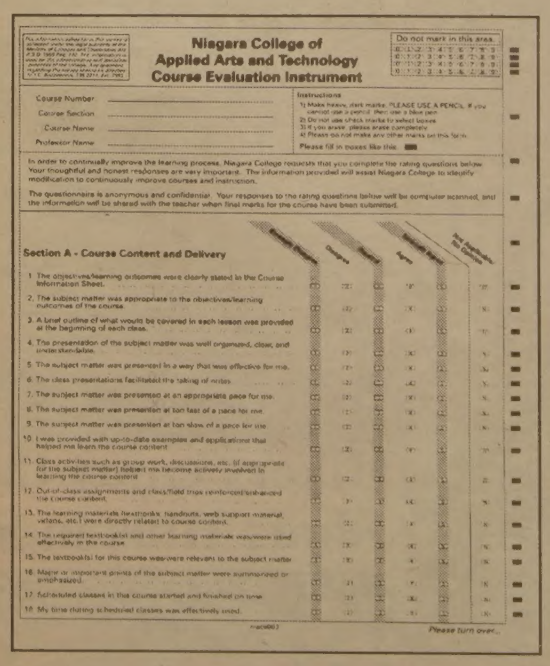
Thank You

FOR PARTICIPATING IN COURSE EVALUATUION SURVEYS DURING THE PAST TWO WEEKS.

THESE VALUABLE SURVEYS WILL HELP YOUR TEACHERS AND NIAGARA COLLEGE TO ENHANCE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF OUR COURSE OFFERINGS.

WE KNOW THAT SURVEYS TAKE TIME AND COMMITMENT AND WE REALLY APPRECIATE YOUR HELP.

Bonnie Rose


Niagara College of
Applied Arts and Technology
Course Evaluation Instrument

FALL

Carol Montean and her dog enjoy a crisp fall day.

Helping children while keeping warm.

Raking, raking, all day long.

First snow for students from Mexico and Venezuela.

Some ESL students are intrigued by snow.

Bundling up against the cold on our way to school.

Hikers enjoy their walk along Short Hills in St. Catharines.

Students huddle under their umbrella to keep out of the early snow.

Photos by Christine Chaloner and Clinton Haggart

FROM THE BENCH

Retired program director back at Niagara

By AARON YZERMAN
Staff Writer

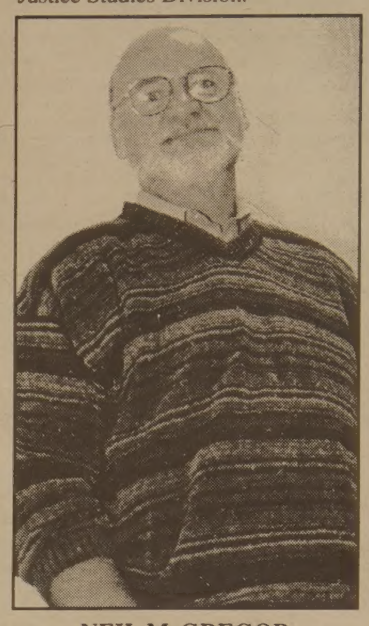
The Administrative and Justice Studies Division has welcomed a familiar face back to Niagara College.

"It's almost as if I had never been away," says Neil McGregor, acting director of the division.

McGregor has returned to the college after four years of retirement and is administering the division in the place of director Nancy Cain, who is working on a school-related project during the fall term.

"When I retired, I was a director, so I'm very familiar with the college and with being a director. When the college decided that they wanted to ask Nancy Cain to do this project, she said, 'I know somebody who can do my job for me,' because I was doing it when I retired. It's mainly my familiarity with the programs, with the curriculum and with the faculty, and knowing the programs, knowing the faculty, knowing how the college functions," he says.

McGregor, 61, has worked at the college for 22 years. During that time, he has been director of the Legal Assistant program, Office Administration program and Journalism-Print program, and was director of the Community Studies Division before he retired. That division included the Law and Security Administration program and the Correctional Worker program, now part of the Administrative and Justice Studies Division.



NEIL McGREGOR

The Welland resident says returning to the college was what he expected it to be, and he hasn't had to adjust to much. "I guess if there are any adjustments I've had to make, one of the biggest adjustments is becoming accustomed to the college becoming more electronic. That's a bit of a change, but it's a good change, and it hasn't been difficult for me to adjust at all to that. The other change probably is the fact that in many ways, the college has been made to be more accountable and, of course, it's through the KPIs (Key Performance Indicators). Again, that's nothing but positive, to know that the college is more accountable — more accountable to the students, more accountable to the community, more accountable to the employers — so those are all good things.

"You're always trying to keep at the front of your mind, at all times, the students, and making sure that the environment in which they are learning is (in) the best possible environment. That's where they're getting the education that they need, that they want and that they deserve," he says.

McGregor says there are no major developments planned for the programs he directs for this year, but improvements are always considered.

"What I see is growth and expansion and improvements in these programs as we develop our partnership with the Niagara Regional Police Service (NRP). And when the training centre for the NRP comes on stream, and more and more of their training is done on campus, it will do nothing but enhance these programs.

"The students will benefit greatly from it, the college will benefit greatly from it. We are continually fine-tuning the curriculum through advisory committees, through student feedback and through employer feedback, but that never changes," he says. "That's been going on since the college first started."

Aside from his work at the college, McGregor sits on the board of directors for AIDS Niagara,Canadian Mental Health Association-Ontario Division and Canadian Mental Health Association-Niagara-South Branch.

"I enjoy the challenge of seeing that agencies such as the ones I've mentioned function in such a way that they provide the services that are needed to the citizens of Ontario."

McGregor says after his job as acting director is completed in December, he will return to his pastime.

"My hobby is gardening. When I'm finished here I'll go back to my gardens, and the winter months are going to be spent looking at seed catalogues and gardening magazines, and sitting and looking out the window and waiting impatiently for spring."

Until then, McGregor will be at his post at the college.

He says the training process students go through for Administrative and Justice Studies differs from other programs, and that each of the programs is designed to train students for different parts of the justice system.

"The police foundations, of course, is the basic training which assists graduates to gain employment with various police services. The Law and Security Administration program graduates are being trained for employment in the customs and immigration sector or private policing. And the Correctional Worker program, of course, its graduates are trained to seek employment in that part of the system which deals with the population after some type of offence has occurred, whereas the other are sort of before," he says.

"In order to be successful, they (students) really should have a keen interest in working with people, should have a good understanding of community, a good understanding of people in terms of their roles within community and so forth and so on. So, the students that come into this type of program are those that are really interested in working with people, helping *people, understanding people.*"

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BOARD OF GOVERNORS

$3 million implements PeopleSoft at Niagara

Continued from Page 1

"It will give new meaning to the word access and choice, saving time and effort."

Using a seamless integration with Windows-based applications capable of work-flow and self-service modules, the college says the new system will provide students, staff and clients with more "efficient and effective" service.

The system incorporates three-tier client-servers, a relational database and Web access concepts and standards.

"Information will be available in a timely manner. There will be access for all, right at our fingertips," says Dianne Oster, of Admissions and Financial Aid.

Weldon says, "Student self-serve is the real benefit," explaining how students will soon be able to do "What Ifs . . ." with their academic standings and analyze and view for themselves the credit-transfer possibilities from program to program.

"Students can now plan their learning experience."

Bonnie Rose, vice-president academic, says staff who struggled with the previous technology will now be able to use their time to assist students rather than deal with the old systems that didn't operate in a time-efficient manner.

The 30-minute PowerPoint presentation by Weldon provided a project overview including status, management, staffing and timelines as well as its benefits and impacts.

"Phoenix" came to life as Niagara College officially launched the multi-million dollar project on Sept. 28.

Weldon explained to the board the meaning behind the name Phoenix. A short story of the mythical phoenix was attached to the board's report. It refers to phoenix as a "beautiful and uniquely immortal bird."

Weldon says the phoenix is associated with strength, purity, life, rebirth and immorality.

In Chinese myth it appears only in good times and hides itself when there is trouble. In Japan it is a good-luck symbol that appears when a saint rules the land.

Weldon says she hopes the program will remain as immortal as the bird.

In September, the student administration module began. In October the configuration began with the help of human resource staff. In January 2001 the college will officially begin to implement the financial systems portion of the project.

On Dec. 1 applicants will start to be processed in the new system.

Weldon expects the college to be able to "reap the benefits from their agonies" by September 2001.

The CIO says the college was faced with the challenge of "obsolete systems with no place to go."

Weldon explains the board's decision to approve the $3-million project. "It was recognized as the most important advancement of the college."

Weldon elaborates and says it would have cost the college more than $8 million to build a similar program of its own or to manually transfer the files to three-inch by five-inch index cards. Realizing the extreme scenario she had just described, she casually comments with a chuckle, "I guess we could have bought typewriters."

Comparing the costs of the $3-million project versus the $8-million cost if Niagara decided to build a custom program, Weldon says, "It's the best deal out there," adding, "$3 million is a bargain."

Niagara College is scheduling installation to be complete in nine months. Weldon compares it to other academic institutions and major telecommunications corporations that installed the system over three to four years. She says she predicts fewer complications if everyone is forced to learn the system all at once, noting that this will place more stress and tension on her staff during the initial training process.

The CIO says the system, offering about 1,100 tasks, is "user-friendly," yet it has a pile of instruction manuals that measure several feet high if stacked together.

"I think it will benefit Niagara College," says Beg Crumm, 46, of Welland and Niagara College's payroll department, adding, "We're still trying to figure out how certain areas will join in."

Weldon says Canadian users of PeopleSoft include Canadian Tire Acceptance Ltd., a group of 13 Nova Scotia community colleges and the Municipality of Waterloo. She estimates that over 400 educational institutions across North America have this system installed.

She says she is aware some of PeopleSoft's other customers share a "mixed reaction," but says the problems they're experiencing aren't likely to affect the college.

She has ordered an "as-is no modification to core software" rule to the system, meaning there will be no changes to the original program nor any customizing to suit Niagara's specific needs.

"We will not change it. Niagara will adapt to PeopleSoft processes."

The CIO said she believes that when too many modifications are made to the system this is when problems begin to occur.

Weldon also says that the team at Niagara has worked "step-by-step using methodological decision-making techniques to catch and stop the problem before it becomes one."

Weldon says this change will make administration a lot easier too.

In the human resources area of the college Dianne Davoli, 37, of Welland, says the "neat thing" is that human resources and payroll integration will now be done electronically.

Technical support team member Dave Salter, of St. Catharines, summed the program up in one word: "complex."

Salter says he doesn't think the program will experience any major problems in the future, adding, "We solve the problems as we go."

Salter is completing his diploma in the Computer Programmer/Analyst (Co-op) program and will graduate in December.

Weldon says progress documentation through reports and face-to-face decision making is a necessity. "It could turn into a runaway train otherwise."

It was reported to the board that project management is being tracked very closely using electronic databases, weekly written reports, bi-weekly committee meetings involving three vice-presidents and the CIO and monthly quality assurance / risk management meetings.

Staffing for the project includes a total hour equivalent to 16.5 full-time college staff and six information technology consultants from Deloitte and Touche, the college's implementation and consulting partners. When asked how they calculate 0.5 of an employee, she laughed and commented, "If you think that's bad we have 0.4 of an academic on our team." Weldon then explained that in reality there are many more than 16 bodies. The equivalent refers to the number of hours worked throughout various points in the timeline.

PeopleSoft is a computer program company, founded in 1987, that originally focused on the applications of human resources and finance. It has since expanded service to core business processes, including material management, project performance analysis, manufacturing operations, as well as e-business.

In addition, PeopleSoft has developed industry-specific applications to provide its customers with competitive advantages to organizations in higher learning, communications, federal government, healthcare, professional and financial services, high-technology / electronics, transportation, utilities, as well as retail and wholesale distribution.

The company is reported to have more than 7,000 employees to assist in operating its 25 worldwide markets. With more than 4,000 customer organizations PeopleSoft states on its Web site at www.peoplesoft.com, that it has had "resounding business success, with revenues roughly doubling in each of the past seven years to reach $1.4 billion in 1999."

With a smile on her face the chief of information services concluded her progress report by extending an invitation to members for a tour of the facilities and assuring the Board of Governors, "We're on time, on budget and as ever we're on alert."

Weldon says she does not see, at this point, that costs will exceed the budget.

With the Phoenix project just under way, the college is already making plans for Phase Two.

"Everybody is already making a list of what we want for Phase Two."

Weldon predicts the college is looking towards a target date of sometime late next fall, but says it is still too early to estimate the costs.

The CIO says the college plans to apply to the government for funding under the Student Task Force. The college is organizing a tool-kit to pass on to other colleges. This is expected to allow future colleges' implementation at half the cost and time.

PeopleSoft Installation Timeline

Milestone Date	Application	Module(s)	Milestone
DECEMBER 2000	Student Administration	Campus Community Admissions	Fall 2001 Post Secondary Applicant Import
FEBRUARY 2001	Student Administration	Campus Community Admissions	Fall 2001 Post Secondary Applicant Processing
APRIL 2001	Student Administration Financials HRMS	General Ledger Accounts Payable Purchasing Base HR / Benefits Payroll	Spring Enrolment for Continuing Ed Go Live at Beginning of New Fiscal Year
AUGUST 2001	Student Administration	Student Records Student Financials Financial Aid	Fall 2001 Post Secondary Registration
SEPTEMBER 2001	Student Administration	Advisement	Degree auditing for Fall 2001 Class and Beyond

Chart by Laura T. Ricciuto

Niagara College wraps up United Way campaign

By KEVIN HARTFORD
Staff Writer

Niagara College's United Way campaign has officially called it quits for this year.

The campaign, which ended Nov. 3, raised more than $27,500, with $25,513 coming from employee contributions and $2,000 from various special events organized by the college.

A parking spot raffle raised $393, dress-down days raised $614, and the recent Jail and Bail raised $918.

"I'm feeling incredibly proud," says Darrell Neufeld, executive assistant to the college president and co-chair of the campaign.

"It really shows the extent to which staff care about their community. They gave generously and enthusiastically."

Neufeld recently participated in a fashion show for the United Way, held Nov. 1.

"I've clearly missed my calling," he says with a laugh.

Rena Posteraro, campaign co-chair, calls the campaign's results "tremendous." She says the various events were "a lot of fun, interesting and challenging."

Staff participation rose from last year's total of 187 to 206 this year.

"To see it all come together for such a good cause serves to underscore the community-mindedness of our staff," says Neufeld.

"It's a real team effort," says Posteraro.

New campaign co-chairs will take over for Neufeld and Posteraro next year and will make the decision to set a higher or lower goal than this year's $20,000 target.

"It's up to future campaign committees to determine the goal each year, whether (raising the goal) will be continued, who's to say? I don't know if there's a need to improve anything, given the success. Past campaigns have been really successful. We give credit to all those who came before us," says Neufeld.

A thank-you dinner for contributors will be held on Dec. 5, and there will be an upcoming awards event in which organizations that made donations will be recognized.

"The United Way knows it is important to recognize those who help them meet their goals," says Neufeld. "We thank everyone."

"There's a great synergy," says Posteraro.

MOBILITY NIAGARA

Cancelled mobile service creates problems for users

By RACHEL MONTOUR
Staff Writer

Two disabled students say they must now depend on others to drive them to Niagara College's Welland campus.

James Davis, 22, of Crystal Beach, a first-year student in the General Arts and Science program, says it was the middle of September when he found out Mobility Niagara transportation service was closing almost immediately.

"I may not have a ride to school in January," he says. "Right now, my father or my sister drives Loretta and I to school, but he is unable to drive us next semester. My father has severe back problems, and it is hard for him to lift our wheelchairs in and out of the car. My sister can't drive us anymore because she is pregnant and near the end of her pregnancy.

"Now we come to school later and we don't have to go to Mobility Niagara's schedule."

Asked if it is better without Mobility Niagara's services, he says, "No, it's causing problems because going with my sister is a lot of trouble. Her car is unreliable. My father is in a lot of pain and it would be better if he didn't drive us."

Asked if the service was valuable, he says, "Definitely. It was a necessity for disabled people. It gives us independence. It makes things easier and since it is a business, it's their job to provide transportation to and from certain destinations. They make me more independent. You know that they will show up and drive you to and from school."

Students James Davis and Loretta Bruyere used Mobility Niagara transportation services to attend the college.

Photo by Rachel Montour

He says he did not go anywhere else with Mobility Niagara besides school. "I thought they were irresponsible when they told us because they didn't give us much notice." He says they only gave them "about 12 hours' notice."

"I was worried about not being able to come to school. It would have been a waste of our time and our tuition." He says it's really an inconvenience because they have to depend on others and he is still having problems. It cost $28 a day to travel from Crystal Beach to the college. "I received funding from Community Living in Fort Erie." He says he gets about $500 a month.

Loretta Bruyere, 20, of Crystal Beach, is in the two-year General Arts and Science program at Niagara College's Welland campus.

She says she found out Mobility Niagara was closing the second week of school.

"I am no longer able to get to school. I have to rely on family. It took my independence away."

She says she gets a ride with Davis's father and sister. "We may not have a ride next semester." As to whether this has any positive aspects, she says, "Yes, actually we just leave an hour earlier instead of two hours." She says the time they leave for school is better.

Was the service Mobility Niagara provided valuable? "Yes, it's valuable, because that way disabled people can be more independent and they don't have to rely on other people to take them places. They can go on their own."

She says she travelled to "school and back" from Crystal Beach to Niagara College in Welland.

She says the cost of transportation was $28 a day for a round trip. "It's better than $30 for a taxi service."

She says Mobility Niagara didn't let them know they were closing until the last minute. "So it just made things more difficult. We couldn't find a ride soon enough so it just left us out in the cold. That is mainly how I felt."

Gord Lockyer, of Fonthill, assistant director/treasurer for the Regional Municipality of Niagara, says, "Basically, Mobility Niagara provided transportation services to disabled, elderly and mobility-challenged residents of the Niagara region."

He says Mobility Niagara "charged a fee, but the fee was not enough to cover the costs. As a result they had a deficit."

Eventually, the service providers — for example, bus companies — could no longer operate without being paid, he says.

He says there were two donations from outside sources, while Human Resources Development Canada provided a start-up grant.

Regional council, on Nov. 2, approved a recommendation that representatives of the Region meet with the board of Mobility Niagara to formulate a plan to support the delivery of transportation services for the physically disabled.

Al Homeniuk, of Simcoe, project co-ordinator of Mobility Niagara, says grants for the service ran out. "We couldn't sustain the cost for the service." Mobility Niagara had a deficit of $200,000. "We couldn't continue the service with a deficit. Debt kept piling up. Deep holes are hard to get out of, which is why we stopped the service." He says, "The Town of Pelham asked the 12 municipalities to endorse a resolution to support Mobility Niagara both financially and conceptionally. Seven of the 12 municipalities have passed resolutions."

He says students using the service only had to pay "one-third of the actual cost." The rest of the money was funded through grants to Mobility Niagara.

Anyone wishing to write a letter in support of Mobility Niagara can mail letters to the Regional Municipality of Niagara, c/o Chair Debbie Zimmerman, 2201 St. David's Rd., Thorold, Ont. L2V 4T7 or send a fax to (905) 685-6243.

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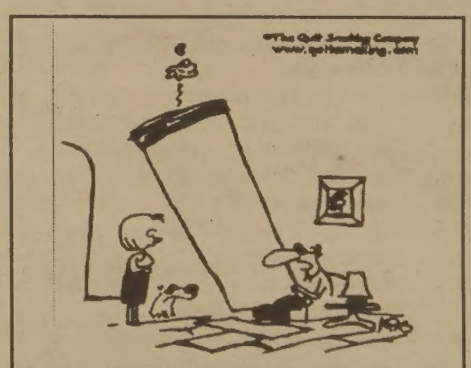

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KNOWING THE LAW

Designer drugs threaten Niagara students

By AARON YZERMAN
Staff Writer

Drug use among young people is common, but most are not aware of how dangerous and accessible some drugs can be.

"Last year in December, we started realizing the problem we had here with what we call 'designer drugs,'" says Detective Sgt. Randy Bleich, of the Niagara Regional Police (NRP) Service.

"It's a problem. It's very lucrative. We sort of realized that more and more of these drugs are available anywhere in Niagara."

Bleich, the officer in charge of the sexual assault unit for the NRP, made a presentation at the Welland campus's Hennepin Hall on Nov. 8 that explained designer drugs and their use for recreational activities and sexual assault.

Lucie O'Neil, crime analyst for the NRP, described in her presentation how sexual predators are apprehended and how victims can get help.

Bleich discussed and analysed the four most common designer drugs being used in the region, specifically at all-night party venues known as "raves": Ecstasy, Ketamine, Rohypnol and GHB.

He says these kinds of illicit drugs are not made by pharmaceutical companies. They can be made by anyone who has a recipe and ingredients, which can be accessible through the Internet, and can be deadly in certain doses.

"I think they (young people) know that they're out there, but I don't think that they're totally aware of what the results are of taking these drugs. I honestly think they aren't aware of the effects of the drugs, and they aren't aware of what can be in the drug (because of) the fact that they're made by all different types of sources. In most cases, these are more dangerous now than they were years ago. We don't know what the effects are in the long run. Who knows what they're putting in it?"

"I think young people are very aware, but they are not truly aware of the dangers of the drugs, like how potent some are," says O'Neil. "They can tell you the highs and effects of the drugs, but that's about it. I bet if you went around and said, 'OK, tell me which one is a recreational drug, and which one could kill you if you took too many,' I bet they couldn't tell you that."

Bleich says raves usually start about 2 a.m. and end at about 6 a.m. or 7 a.m., and they usually involve drug use.

"This is basically going on everywhere in Ontario. They're (rave parties) all over the place," he says. "We're really struggling right now with how to regulate these things. The kids just say, 'It's a feel-good vibration. We're just having fun. It's the same as our parents did in the '60s.

Continued on Page 24

Tourist employees help NRP prevent crime

By COLLIN COULIS
Staff Writer

The Niagara Regional Police (NRP) Service's Casino Patrol Unit launched a new crime prevention program aimed at Niagara Falls' tourist district at the Brock Plaza Hotel on Nov. 17.

The program, called Preventing All Crime Together (PACT), is designed to get employees in the tourism industry actively involved in reporting and preventing crime.

PACT is the result of a partnership involving the NRP, the City of Niagara Falls and numerous businesses in the community. Collectively these groups are known as the Casino Police Security Alliance (CPSA).

"The CPSA, we've helped solve quite a few crimes, and a communication between law enforcement agencies is 1,000 times better then it was," said Terry Blatchley, security supervisor of the Skylon Tower.

Every month the PACT program will recognize an employee from one of the hotels or restaurants in the area for that person's efforts in crime prevention. The PACT employee of the month receives $100 and a plaque for his or her contribution.

Crimes in Niagara Falls has declined for the past seven years and the CPSA want to keep it that way, stated NRP constable and PACT co-chair Habib Rangi, in a press release.

"This summer was one of the safest (summers) we've had," said Const. Angelo Blancato, chair of the CPSA.

Matt Campbell (centre), the first PACT employee of the month, poses with Doug Brooks, staff sergeant of the Casino Patrol Unit (left), and Const. Habib Rangi.

Photo by Collin Coulis

Say no to credit

By PATRICIA HUGHES
Staff Writer

Charge it!

Credit cards have caused brief happiness to some Niagara College students.

Jeannie Sherry, 20, of Waterford, Ont., says she has four credit cards.

She says she got the cards while at the college. "Someone was sitting in the hallway outside the book store and offered me a free gift to apply, so I did."

Sherry, who is in the Social Service Worker program, says each of her cards started her off with a $500 limit. She says she started using them two days later and within the month they were maxed out.

Sherry says she doesn't make regular payments. "I can't afford it. I'm a student."

She says what she likes best is that "they're convenient, but (it) can be difficult to keep up the payments."

Sherry says the first few times a payment is missed the total rises because of the interest rates charged, which are in a range of percentages.

"After that they phone you, and not many are very sympathetic."

She says she would not recommend that other students get credit cards. "We're students. We have enough to pay out. We use them to buy things we can't afford, but then we can't afford the bills. We're screwed."

Sherry says what tempted her to get her credit cards were the free gifts.

Krista Fleming, 20, of Lindsay, Ont., is in her first year of the General Arts and Science program. She says she has three credit cards.

Fleming says she also got them through the college. "I was just sitting in the cafeteria one day and some guy handed me a couple of watches and a CD and told me to fill out this form. He didn't even tell me what it was for."

She says she got her Visa card first, which started her out with a $500 limit. When she wasn't using it often, they raised her limit to $2,000. Sears started her off with a $2,000 limit because that company knew that was how much her Visa was set at.

Fleming says she used to make regular payments, but then she started spending more than what she was making.

"I only wanted them for emergencies but then I see something I want and figure I can pay it back, but I can't. It tends to get out of control. Then you don't know what to do."

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ENTERTAINMENT

Intimate & Interactive at MuchMusic, perfect ending to a two-day adventure

By KRISTIN COLLVER
Staff Writer

For two consecutive days I travelled the Queen Elizabeth Highway to Toronto only to end up squished among "punks" and "freaks." Why? Green Day.

Originally from Berkeley, Calif., Green Day is a punk band that hit the music scene big in 1994 with its major label debut album **Dookie**.

I packed up my sister, my boyfriend and two of my friends on Nov. 3 and we hit the road to catch Green Day at MuchMusic for the band's Intimate & Interactive performance.

We arrived at 2:30 p.m. but the show wasn't set to start until 8 p.m.

Luckily for us we ended up about three or four rows back in the queue in front of the window. As 8 p.m. rolled around we became "very close" to those around us. Literally. Breathing became difficult.

Green Day took the stage and opened with the song *Minority* from its new album **Warning!** As the crowd started to bounce with the music, I found myself doing the same. However, it wasn't on the power of my own two legs. We were so confined, standing still was no longer an option. If the crowd moved, so did I.

Green Day came outside a couple of times during the performance with Tré Cool, Green Days' flamboyant drummer, tossing mementos into the sea of fans and onlookers. First, it was some guitar picks. Then he threw out a baby doll saying, "My baby wants to crowd-surf for the first time." Last, came the drumsticks. With every memento a crowd shift occurred as hands and arms came flying over my head. It was only with the aid of my boyfriend that I didn't end up trampled in the streets.

On Nov. 4, I travelled to Toronto again, with my sister and her friend, to be swallowed by a sea of people again.

Arriving at the venue around 4.30 p.m. we settled into the line.

Around 7:15 p.m. the doors were opened and a mad rush of people flooded the gates.

Finally, making our way to the doors, we were stopped briefly to be frisked by security for cameras, weapons and drugs. After passing inspection we made our way into the club and found the stage. We were in the second row.

As the lights dimmed and the opening band took the stage, we were reminded that the human body can bend only in certain ways.

With the opening act finished, we thought there might be a slight let-up in the pressure exerted on us from the thousand or so people behind us. We were wrong.

With the temperature quickly rising, and breathing becoming exceedingly difficult, I was forced to abandon my place. With the aid of a security guard I was lifted up and over the front row and was overjoyed to feel air in my lungs again. I was soaked with sweat, some mine; some others'.

With only minutes until Green Day, I made my way back toward the stage. Standing off to the side I was able to watch Billie Joe, Mike and Tré as they took the stage to amaze Toronto.

I watched from behind the rest of the crowd, in awe at the fact I was able experience this, but a little disappointed in not being able to keep my second-row status.

As Green Day ripped through such songs as *Minority, JAR, Christie Road* and countless others, the crowd cheered.

In the end, Tré trashed his drum set, trying to get the various drums on top of the lighting fixture above him, unsuccessfully every time. Mike went on to smash two of his basses and push over the speakers behind him.

After the carnage onstage, Billie emerged to sing the last song, *Time of Your Life*.

I had the time of my life.

Mastering of human spirit portrays healthy self-image

By BROOKE DREDGE
Staff Writer

Children in today's society seem to rely heavily on the vision of life television portrays. The figure, the hair and the clothes on TV can become too much.

The "Hollywood image" of the perfect model or actress is size three waists, blond hair and baby blue eyes. The epitome of that, being actresses Gwyneth Paltrow or Jennifer Anniston. Nevertheless, the gross reality is that not everyone is built to look that way, obviously.

Girls see an image or picture and feel obligated to adapt to that image if they hope to become rich and famous. Is this what any individual hopes to achieve?

Shouldn't we be teaching them about improving their internalized image rather than just their outsides?

You're taught to measure others by the size of their heart and not the way they look. Obviously, a good heart and a sharp mind have no place in society today. I guess the difference between an educated woman and a model is that one has a mind of her own?

As biased as that may sound, an educated woman does not conform to a set standard. She is herself, not afraid to show her mind and heart, as opposed to a woman who would rather use her body to get ahead in this world. Obviously, the model has to maintain her weight or she can forget about keeping her modeling contract. In the end, she has no choice but to listen to the demands of others, thereby not using her own mind to stop and let her body be the way it should.

I realize we're made to look the way we do for a reason, whatever it be, and that few are happy with their body, even the most perfectly figured person. They always want to change something about themselves. This is also the case with heavy people. We are always trying some new diet or fad, trying to look more pleasing to the eye. For those of us who deal with weight issues we too are trying to hard to conform too "Hollywood's image." Although we may never attain it, the shame in being overweight can be overwhelming.

For example, trying to shop for hype clothes in a place like the GAP, which doesn't carry size 13 jeans, is embarrassing and really shoots down your self-confidence. Another example is seeing someone come out of the fitting room in an outfit you could only dream of fitting into. It makes you look at yourself and want to cry.

Some people may never know how it feels to be teased and picked on about weight issues. Dreaming about losing the weight and pushing yourself to drop 10 or 20 pounds may be only the only way to feel a little more healthy or fit.

Some of us don't push ourselves to reach a set image. People do it to have some confidence in themselves, and although it is a contradiction, there is a difference between looking good and feeling good. Those are different issues.

If you can look at yourself and say you are pleased with every aspect, both inside and out, congratulations. You have mastered the art of the human spirit, a goal that for some takes a lifetime of hard work or intense therapy. However, if you are continually picking out your faults, whether they be weight or otherwise, you need to step back and look at yourself and decide what is more important to improve, your outside or your inside.

Most have come to understand that people will respect you more if you work on improving your inside rather than merely your outside. Those who never see your mind don't deserve to know the real you, because if your looks are all they see, then they are missing the best part of you — YOU!

Learn to conform to your own views of the person you want to be, and only improve your finer qualities if YOU feel fit. Don't let anyone tell you what the meaning of beauty is, because the age-old adage is that beauty lies in the eyes of the beholder, which should be enough for anyone.

Zamora, 'The Torture King' and his touring sideshow, return to Niagara for third year

By RYAN McLAUGHLIN
Staff Writer

It'll be pain and torture at After Hours, the Niagara College Welland campus pub, on Nov. 27.

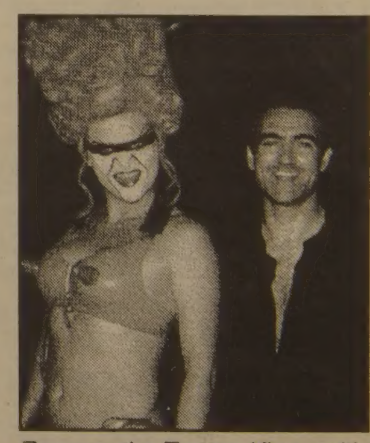
Zamora's Touring Sideshow makes its third annual appearance in what is sure to be a gut-wrenching display of amazing feats.

"The show, in its nature and scope, borders the unbelievable and outrageous," says Dave Rapelje, student centre manager, adding, "This has been substantiated by the number of people who have fainted at past shows here at the college."

Tim Cridland, also known as Zamora, the Torture King, has been featured in Guinness World Records, Ripley's Believe It or Not!, 48 Hours, Real TV, and The Discovery Channel among others. He takes entertainment to a new level with his incredible ability to ignore pain and perform acts that would leave most of us bleeding and crying for our parents.

With this visit to the college, Zamora will be accompanied by Slymenstra Hyman, best known for her performances with rock band GWAR. She is sure to add a new dimension to the performance.

The night is sure to be full of "hard-core, over-the-top gore," Rapelje says.



Zamora, the Torture King, with Sylmenstra Hyman, of GWAR.
Submitted photo

PASS THE POPCORN

Stallone a hit in remake of Get Carter

By SCOTT ROSTS
Staff Writer

Sylvester Stallone returns to his roots as the action star we know and love, in a remake of the 1970's classic Get Carter.

Stallone stars as Jack Carter, a Vegas thug who returns to his hometown of Seattle to attend his brother's funeral. As he asks a couple of questions about the mysterious death of his brother, he uncovers clues and a seedy plot buried in his brother's past.

The bad guys in this plot include an ex-acquaintance of Carter's (Mickey Rourke), a club owner (Michael Caine, who starred in the original) and a slimy software developer played by Alan Cumming. Carter also has to take under his wing his brother's wife (Miranda Richardson) and daughter (Rachel Leigh Cook).

Get Carter is one of the better action films I've seen in a while. The car chases were fast and exciting, and the film's dark underworld really felt like an underworld. Stallone is nowhere near as bloodthirsty as Caine in the original, but his tender side and emotion are pivotal to the plot in the film.

Although this was a Stallone feature, it still allowed a lot of his supporting cast to shine. Cook plays the role of a tortured daughter who has her innocence stripped away a layer at a time. Cumming was enjoyable as a spoiled Bill Gates kind of guy trying to protect himself with his power.

For a man in his mid-50's, Stallone seems to still pack a punch. I would have liked to have seen a long exhausting fight at the end between Rourke and Stallone. In a party fight scene, Stallone and Rourke face off in a battle that reminds me of his "Rocky" days.

One of the few problems with the film was its lighting. I liked the dark greys and blues, which really enhanced the rainy dark setting, but some elements were hard to see. Another flaw was that Richardson's character often seemed absent throughout the film. Maybe she could have played a bigger role. Other than those items, the film was enjoyable.

Stallone isn't the same man from his "Rocky" days, but this is a worthwhile choice for Stallone fans to check out.

Loyalty, bravery highlight action-packed movie

By RYAN McLAUGHLIN
Staff Writer

Live by the code. Die by the code.

Ghost Dog: The Way of the Samurai takes this ancient proverb and weaves it into an action-charged tale that leaves you wishing all movies could be this great.

The story concerns a man, who after having his life saved by a minor Mob boss, devotes himself to offering his flawless hitman skills to his saviour.

When his benefactor's life is threatened by those higher up the Mafioso ladder, the code of the Samurai, which Ghost Dog follows strictly, dictates that he must protect his retainer above all else.

Infused with a soundtrack by Wu-Tang member RZA, who also cameos in the film, Ghost Dog's music slides with ease from a smooth jazz sound to beat-pounding hip-hop.

Intermingled throughout the movie are constant references to anecdotes from Yamamoto Tsunetomo's book Hagakure: The Book of the Samurai. These adages add a depth to the movie that is commonly missing in most Hollywood blockbusters.

This has very much to do with the writer/director and independent movie legend Jim Jarmusch.

Jarmusch, who has written and directed a handful of films dating as far back as the early 1980s, is known to fill his movies with characters of depth and with passion. This is evident in Ghost Dog: The Way of the Samurai, which pulls you into its story and holds you there until the end. When it finally does let you go, you feel not just that you've watched a good movie, but you also have a better understanding of loyalty, bravery and what it means to live by the noble code of the samurai.

These adages add a depth to the movie that is commonly missing in most Hollywood blockbusters.

Little Nicky could almost make Hell look like fun

By CLINTON HAGGART
Staff Writer

Little Nicky is one "Hell" of a film.

A bigger budget, more special effects and more notable actors beef up Adam Sandler's newest movie.

Sandler plays Satan's youngest son, Nicky. Some say it's not much of a stretch for Sandler, who is sent to Earth to catch his two escaped brothers, Adrian and Cassius.

While on Earth, Nicky teams up with a talking dog, Mr. Beefy, who helps him unleash his evil.

On Nicky's quest to capture his brothers and return them to Hell, he meets a woman named Valerie (Patricia Arquette), who gives him butterflies in his stomach.

While on Earth, Nicky teams up with a talking dog, Mr. Beefy, who helps him unleash his evil.

As Satan, Harvey Keitel falls apart. Nicky is on Earth learning to use his evil power. In his first attempt, he manages to turn a can of Coke into Pepsi.

Adrian and Cassius are busy turning New York into Hell on Earth by invading the bodies of a religious leader, the mayor and a referee who calls all the penalties the Harlem GlobeTrotters deserve.

Little Nicky includes a cameo from Happy Gilmore. Chubbs appears as a mambo instructor in Heaven. He reminds all the angels that dancing is "all in the hips."

Little Nicky is a great movie. It almost makes Hell look fun, unless you're Hitler. See the movie and you'll know what I mean.

Autumn in New York a 'woman's flick' that evokes tears

By LAURA T. RICCIUTO
Staff Writer

From the screens of Pretty Woman, Runaway Bride and now Autumn in New York, Richard Gere manages to capture yet another young girl's heart. His elegantly tousled, charming demeanour always has them coming back for more.

Gere, who plays Will, owner and chef of a high-class, overpriced New York City establishment, finds his opportunity to move in on his next target, Charlotte, a 22-year-old hat designer played by Wynona Ryder, within minutes of the opening scene.

Gere, in those few short but detailed minutes, successfully portrayed his character as an innocent, womanizing, lady's man. If you're as puzzled as I am, how such contrary words can be used in succession, just watch and see for yourself how he once again executed this role.

He can really pull it off.

Charlotte, who was the shy artsy type, crawled right into the 48-year-old's web, minutes after meeting him at her birthday dinner, while dining at this "star" entrepreneur's restaurant.

The two discreetly exchanged looks of endearment across the busy room, and suddenly they're in love.

Will remains eager during their courtship to tell Charlotte there is "not much of a future" as they are at different stages in their lives. He insists the interest won't linger for long,

Charlotte reveals she has a rare heart condition, and the prognosis doesn't look good.

Despite their trying relationship, Will decides to maintain his nasty ways elsewhere. The heartbroken victim of his games calls off the relationship and, perturbed, walks to her loft-style apartment in the wee hours of the morning.

For the first time, Will is the one devastated by the break-up, realizing how much he fell for the daughter of his best friend from 25 years ago.

As the power of love prevails, the two love-struck individuals reunite in a matter of five theatre minutes.

Throughout the film, Will is constantly being approached via correspondence by one "Lisa Tyler," who reveals her shocking identity as a long-lost relative. Tyler says she must meet this "man she saw in the magazine" before her life can proceed.

During the first half of the movie, which at times was a little slow, Charlotte suffered several attacks that landed her in the hospital, each time edging her closer and closer to the casket.

Her "helplessly in love" mate finally came to grips with the fact he wasn't going to lose her.

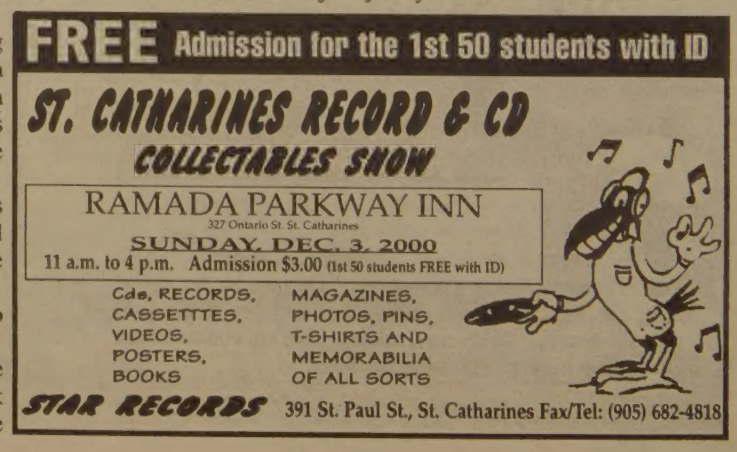
Through his determined efforts, and with the help of his new relative, a researcher, they track down a surgeon who is willing to undertake the risky surgery that could save Charlotte's young life.

Days before the couple's first Christmas together, Charlotte suffers an attack that leaves her at the mercy of a world-renowned heart surgeon.

As the surgeon rolled Charlotte down the brightly lit halls leading to the ER, the silent movie theatre suddenly filled with the sounds of teary-eyed moviegoers, unable to take the suspense.

I give this tear-wrenching, romantic movie four stars.

Guys beware: it's a "woman's flick." Quite frankly, I don't think the majority of you would understand it.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SPORTS

Niagara opens season with loss to Fanshawe

Men's basketball team comes back, but falls apart in second half

By AARON WILSON
Staff Writer

The Niagara Knights men's basketball team lost its first league game of the season.

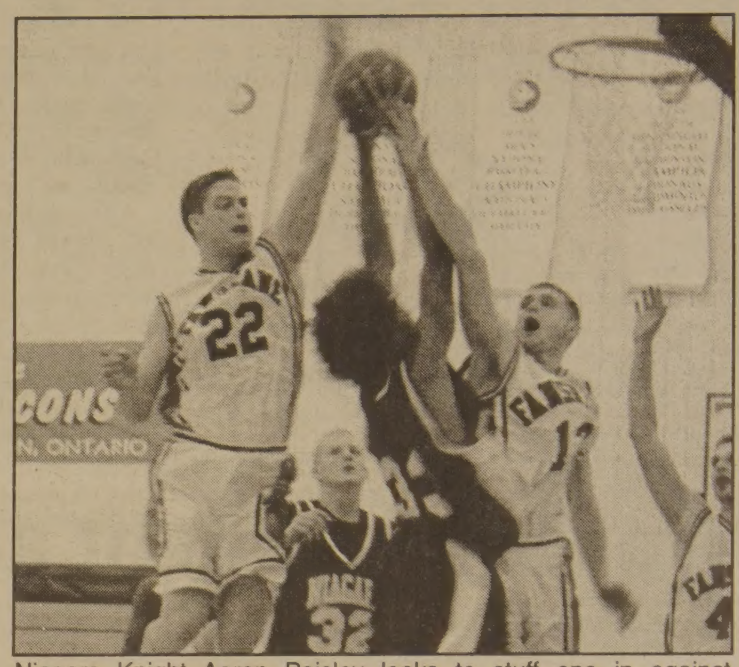
Niagara played Fanshawe College, of London, Tuesday night, losing 79-58, in part as a result of a disappointing second half in the game.

Niagara slid into a hole by taking a 10-0 deficit at the game's start. Coach Ralph Nero says, "We fell asleep and dug ourselves into a hole." The team clawed back to take a 34-30 score into the second half.

"We worked harder, were patient on offence, and very good on defence."

Matt Roberts, centre, was the Knights' leading scorer with 17 points. Roberts said the game was "disappointing," and he didn't enjoy the second half performance.

> *'We fell asleep, and dug ourselves into a hole.'*
> *— Ralph Nero*



Niagara Knight Aaron Paisley looks to stuff one in against Fanshawe. **Photo by Aaron Wilson**

Ernel Ellis, power forward, added 14 points for the Knights. "Every chance they got, they triple- and double-teamed me, and we just couldn't break the man-to-man zone."

Haldon Hutchinson, Niagara's captain, says the most frustrating thing "was trying to find holes in their defence."

Curtis Francis, starter for the Knights, says, "We need to forget about this and look to our next game."

The Knights went 7-5 in exibition play, playing most of their games on the road.The loss puts the Knights 0-1 to start the season.

Nero says that Fanshawe "is a difficult place to play . . . This is just the start of a long season."

Niagara plays its second season game tonight at 8, against Redeemer College in Ancaster.

Women's basketball team falls to 1-4 on the season

By AARON WILSON
Staff Writer

The Niagara Knights women's basketball team has fallen to 1-4 on the season.

Niagara lost to Fanshawe College in London, Ont., 82-54 on Nov. 21.

The Knights played well in the first half, but fell in the second half.

Coach Georgie Groat says the team played tough in the first half, but then shut down.

"We fundamentally broke down. To be down by two in the second half and lose by 28 is unacceptable," says Groat.

She says rebounding was one of the key problems. "We weren't boxing out on defense well, and we weren't offensive or defensive rebounding well either."

Niagara's high scorer was Carrie Stratford with 21 points, Jana Douglas had 14 points, and Tasha Warwick added 10 points.

This is the second straight league game the Knights have dropped.

The Knights lost another road game to George Brown College, of Toronto, on Nov. 15, losing 65-59. Niagara was trailing George Brown by two points late, but then George Brown pulled away with free throws.

Tasha Warwick looks to drive on one of the Fanshawe Falcons. **Photo by Aaron Wilson**

Niagara was to play in a tournament from Nov. 17-18 at the Medaille College Invitational in Buffalo, N.Y., but it was cancelled.

The problem is Medaille has changed to a National Collegiate Athletic Association team and is allowed to play one Canadian team.

The cancellation was much needed as it allowed Niagara to rest some players with "injuries," Groat said.

Niagara plays its next game tonight at Redeemer College in Ancaster.

New therapist much-needed addition to varsity athletics

Therapist works with varsity athletes about 15 hours a week, taping, providing rehab

By AARON WILSON
Staff Writer

Sports at Niagara College is entering a new era.

The college's athletic department is hiring a new team therapist. A trained therapist will be working with the college's varsity athletes about 15 hours a week. The varsity therapist, Rachel Pugliesi, will provide proper taping and therapy.

Ray Sarkis, the college's co-ordinator of the athletic department, says he has been trying to get a therapist and clinic at the college for a number of years.

"It's very important to have a therapist to work with our athletes, who can help rehabilitate athletes when they get injured."

In the past, college athletes had to go to St. Catharines to get therapy for their injuries.

Sarkis says this would hurt the varsity teams because it would take them two or three weeks to heal, sometimes more, but now that process will be quicker.

As for changes in the future, Sarkis says he is trying to push for new bleachers for the gymnasium. "They are far from good seating for our gymnasium. Athletics is stretched to the limit for varsity teams," Sarkis says, adding, "We are concentrating on providing more recreational facilities."

Rachel Pugliesi, the new therapist, is seen taping a varsity athlete before a practice. Athletes used to have to trek to St. Catharines for therapy. **Photo by Aaron Wilson**

SPORTS

Knights No. 1 in West Region standings

Continued from Page 1

complement these two power hitters. "We'll take a look at things during practice to see which combinations work best."

During the first game, the Knights displayed tremendous energy and pleased the home crowd with a convincing 25-15 triumph. Player captain Josh Gunnell chipped in with some timely weak-side kills, while Gaunt concluded game one with a smash into the open court.

Although the score was closer, the second game's efforts were the same as the first's. The Knights won 25-22 with consistent serves and good communication.

"We had a couple of tough calls against us," says Cudmore. When it seemed like the team was going to finish the match without losing a game, things began to unfold.

Mohawk took the next two games and sent the match to a fifth and final game. Following a Knights' timeout, with the score 22-22, Mohawk won game three 25-23 and game four 25-22.

Within these losses, Niagara's players weren't calling for the ball as they did earlier in the match. "We need to work on it (communication)," says Bentley, adding there were a few occasions where the players where bumping into each other. Rookie Chris Heideman crashed into the stands on a valid attempt to reach a loose ball. Upon contact with the wooded benches and some members of the crowd, it appeared as though Heideman was injured. Fortunately, he was not hurt on the play.

"The first two (games) were an indication of what we can do. The rest of the games showed that we have no killer spirit. We need to develop that," says Cudmore.

Besides the addition of Gaunt and Barbisan, the Knights welcomed back Cory Lahey. He was sidelined after surgery to his right knee. Lahey, 24, is a veteran of college and provincial volleyball.

"I have two years at Durham and previous provincial experience with the Ontario junior nationals." Because of his prior experience and a few weeks of practice, Lahey says "it feels pretty good stepping right in (to the lineup)."

Now that Lahey has entered the fray, Cudmore says, "Cory was the toughest guy to blend in. We haven't had a chance to work with him a whole lot."

Brad Harrietha replaced Lahey at the setter position. Incidentally, Bentley and Cudmore say Harrietha has played well as a setter. "Brad's stepping it up as a really good setter," says Bentley. Cudmore adds that he's "very pleased with that."

With two talented players at the setting position, Bentley says it's no longer a weakness. Cudmore agrees with his assistant coach. "We should be good for competition in that position."

When a varsity volleyball match goes to five games, the last one is played up to 15 points. With their backs against the wall, the Knights defeated Mohawk by a score of 15-6. In total, Gaunt contributed to the offence with 20 points and Gunnell posted 13. Lahey says Barbisan and Gaunt will provide a "ton" of help to an already successful team. "We had a rough night tonight because it was pretty much all our first time back together," adding, "We're an offensive threat."

The primary reason for Mohawk's success in game three and four was the team's defence. "They played really well. They play a better defence than we do," says Lahey before entering the locker room.

Player-captain Josh Gunnell (8) prepares to hammer a smash during a game against Mohawk on Nov. 14. The Knights won the match in five nail-biting games.

Photo by Joël D. Herrington

During the weekend of Nov. 10, the Knights won both their matches in three straight games. With Bentley and Cudmore absent for business purposes, athletic department co-ordinator Ray Sarkis took over the coaching duties.

Niagara defeated Canadore 25-23, 25-10 and 25-17 and squeezed past Nipissing 25-21, 25-22 and 25-18. "Even though the scores might have been close, they really don't indicate how much stronger we are, compared to them," says Sarkis. "We won easily."

Gaunt averaged seven points per game and Gunnell exploded for 32 offensive points. Defensive specialist Cuneyt Akgol carried the defence with 11 digs and 17 passes.

"They performed well enough to win, but not as well as they can," says Sarkis, adding they were inconsistent with passing and setting.

Concerning Gaunt and Barbisan's return, Sarkis says they bounced back and played well. "They both walked in and did a fine job."

So far this season, Niagara has a total of 213 offensive points. Gaunt stands in third place among West Region players with an average of 4.8 points a game.

The next regular season games scheduled for the Knights will be tonight and Nov. 25. They will face Canadore and Nipissing for the second time in the same month.

Students will have a chance to see the country's eighth best team when they face Redeemer College, at home, on Dec. 5.

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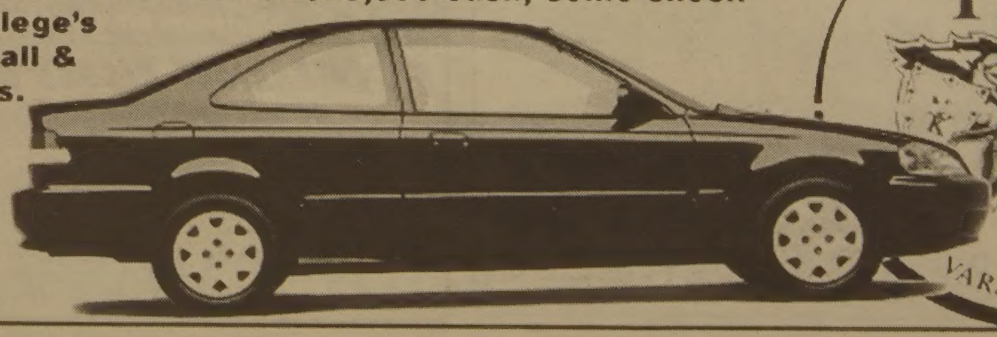

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Child care worker honoured

By HILARY TAYLOR
Staff Writer

Congratulations are in order for an employee of the Niagara College Child Care Centre at the Welland campus.

Darlene Mancini is the recipient of an Award of Excellence presented on Oct. 19.

The award is presented on behalf of the Niagara Branch of the Association of Early Childhood Educators and the Early Childhood Community Development Centre. It is designed to recognize and thank people who have dedicated themselves to early childhood education.

Darlene Mancini displays her award during a presentation at the Child Care Centre.

Photo by Hilary Taylor

Mancini has worked in child care for 22 years.

When given the award, she was described as "dedicated and committed to providing quality child care and a supportive team member." Her peers say she is "truly a role model and is highly respected."

The Awards of Excellence were created in 1997. The recipients of the award are selected by the child-care organization that employs them.

The ceremony was held at the Folk Arts Centre in St. Catharines. Mancini was unable to attend. The children and staff at the Child Care Centre made a presentation to her the following Friday.

Sixteen Awards of Excellence were handed out in total. There were eight Contributors' Awards recipients, none of which were from Niagara College.

This is the fourth Award of Excellence for Niagara College. The first recipient was Pat Eversden in 1997 followed by Lina VanEsch in 1998, and Sharron Fordyce in 1999.

Victims should report crimes

Continued from Page 19

We're not hurting anybody.' Kids want to be part of this, this is the 'in' thing. This is what they want to do."

O'Neil discussed the ways people can get help if they know or think they may have been sexually assaulted. He says one in 10 sexual assault victims does not report the crime to the police.

"To be raped is something that you have to deal with and you have to talk about."

She says the Violent Crime Linkage Analysis System (ViCLAS) is a national computer system that inputs all data on sex offences, homicides and similar offences.

The ViCLAS database gets its information through anonymous third-party reports that can be made by victims of sexual assault to provide information on the incident(s). The reports are confidential, do not include the person's name and can be filed at the Niagara Region Sexual Assault Centre (CARSA) and the Sexual Assault Treatment Centre-Niagara (SATC-N).

"The victims get to be completely anonymous, and only the agency will know who they are, no investigation conducted, no court appearances," says O'Neil. "First and foremost, we want victims to report (the crimes) to the police because then we can do an investigation and actually stop someone."

When the information is entered in ViCLAS, it is continually analyzed against all other sexual assaults on a local, provincial and national basis, he says. "We're able to put these guys on our computer system and say to police out there who may stop (them) 'This guy is known to do this. Use caution,'" says Bleich.

"(Criminals like) Jeffrey Dahmer and (Ted) Bundy — if anybody is aware of the type of behaviour these individuals had and how long they went on their reign of terror before they were found, had there been a system in place like ViCLAS, or even anonymous third-party reports, those individuals would have been stopped long before they were," she says.

"So, if there happens to be a travelling serial predator, which often serial predators are, his behaviour, his modus operandi (mode of operation) and his description — all of that will be analysed every time there's a sexual assault going into that database," she says. "This is an alternative for them to give the police their information in hopes of stopping a serial predator."

For information about these services, contact Niagara Region Sexual Assault Centre (CARSA), 60 James St., Suite 503, St. Catharines, Ont. L2R 7E7 (905) 682-7258. For emergencies, call (905) 682-4584, Sexual Assault Treatment Centre Niagara (SATC -N), St. Catharines General Hospital, 142 Queenston St., St. Catharines, Ont. L2R 7C6 (905) 684-7271 ext. 5300. For emergencies, call (905) 684-7271 ext. 5000 or Niagara Regional Police Services, (905) 688-4111.

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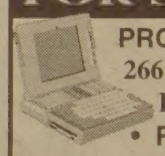

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On November 22 John F. Kennedy was assassinated.

10 YEARS AGO in the NIAGARA NEWS

Two Disney World representatives visited the Hospitality and Tourism on Nov. 8 as part of a current recruiting drive for EPCOT Centre in Orlando, Fla.

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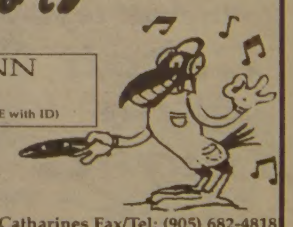

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ENTREPRENEURS

Helping bring their business dreams to life

By PAUL FINELLI
Staff Writer

For nearly a decade, professionals at Niagara College have helped community members finally take flight with their dreams.

Since 1992, the main building's second floor at the college's Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake has housed the Business Development Centre.

Originally called the Innovation Centre, it comprises a small group of business professionals dedicated to helping individuals plan and carry out their assorted business ventures.

Heather Carter, manager of the centre, with over 17 years' experience in the public and private sectors, said the centre's tagline, "Getting you started," sums up the centre's mandate.

She explained her clients are typically middle-aged people dissatisfied with their present work or who have been laid off yet always wanted to go into business themselves. Often services, not manufacturing or selling goods, are the ventures they wish to undertake.

The main services provided to "clients" (the term she said prefers to use) our broken into four main branches.

Self Employment Benefit Program — Probably the biggest program offered, said Carter, and offered jointly with Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC), it allows her staff to assist those eligible through Employment Insurance (EI) or social assistance to receive a monthly income up to a year while taking the program. Clients are eligible if they're already on EI or if they've had a claim in the last few years or have been on paternity or maternity leave within the last five years.

This income is vital for her clients who are just starting out, Carter added. "When you start a business, that cash flow is absolutely critical for the first year because you don't have customers beating down your door as soon you start your business. It takes time, so while they're building up (their business) we provide them with that support."

HEATHER CARTER

"The significant thing of the program is that we not only offer the income support, which really helps people to get started because the cash flow really is the difficult part when you start a business, but also we offer advice."

Each client is assigned an adviser or "mentor," with whom the clients meet regularly "just to bounce ideas, (and) we guide them, we coach them along in their business setup."

Small Business Fundamentals — Tied with the first program and funded by HRDC, she said clients in this three-week in-class-training program meet others in the class starting a business and they discuss their ideas.

"They really work through their business idea and at the end of the program they have the start of a business plan developed, and that's really the focus of the (program). (It) is to really help them focus on the business plan. Is it viable? Does it make it sense? Is it going to work? Is it going to give them the kind of income they need to live on?"

Trade Niagara — Started three years ago, it helps people who have started a business to examine the global business market.

"(Most) of the time the first step that they make is to the United States, to Buffalo, because 10 or 15 minutes from here is Buffalo, N.Y., which offers 500,000 or so (people)."

The clients then learn to realize, she added, that "even though there's a border there, you can do business and it's feasible for you to sell your products and in a lot of cases businesses across that border."

Enterprising Edge On Line — Developed in partnership with Waterloo-based Eastbridge Group, it's a complete program offered online using computer- and Web-based support. It is recognized by the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities and has been tried with success in enterprise centres and classrooms across southern Ontario. Still, the average college or university students wouldn't use this service, Carter said. "It's not a credit course. It's basically like the Small Business Fundamentals, only online. Same kind of curriculum."

It was the province, she explained, that first approached the college for the centre through Jobs Ontario. "We delivered that program; we did a very good job. We were awarded actually . . . for doing such a good job. So then, when other opportunities came up like the Self Employment Benefit Program, like Ontario Works, we're in the running (because) we have done such a good job."

She said while the college does not directly fund the centre, which operates like a regular business dependent on profit, some of its budget goes back to the college.

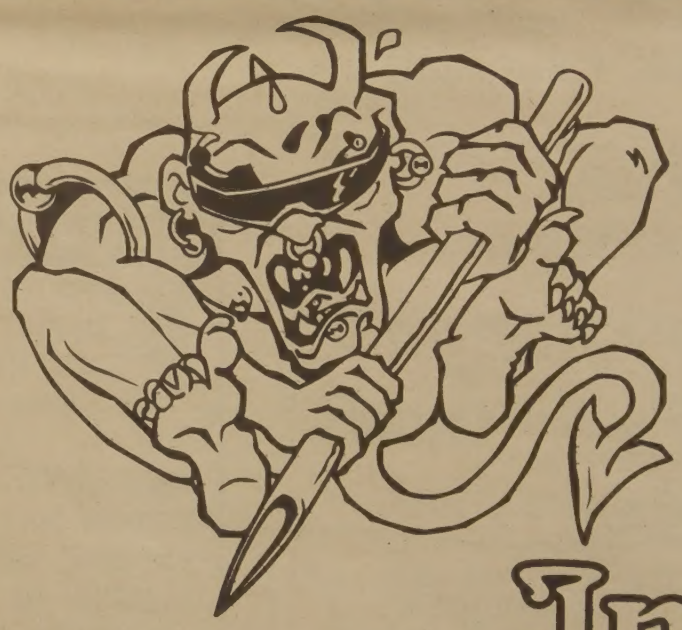
"So, we really contribute back to the college rather than the other way around, although the contribution that the college makes is huge in terms of its reputation and image. Because we operate within a college, we're able to offer services (like counselling and library) that no other delivery agency in the region can offer." This is an extra sell to clients, and at no cost to them, she added.

Since the centre opened it has been "very successful in helping people get started" and has helped more than 100,000 people start businesses. For example, the success rate for the Self Employment Benefit program is 87 per cent, meaning most clients still operate their businesses a year after they finish the program, she continued.

"In addition to that, we know that another six per cent have obtained employment, have found paid employment. So really, when you are looking at it from the point of view that the program is designed to get people employed, whether it's in their own business or (working for) others, we have a 93 per cent success rate, which is very high. We're quite pleased with that."

She said she shares their joys. "For most people it's a dream they've always had, and we help them realize that. We help them get the skills, we provide the coaching, the guidance, in many cases the income support . . . so they can make their dreams a reality."

For more information on the centre, call (905) 641-2252 ext. 4456, or visit the college's Web site at http://www.niagarac.on.ca.



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AND THE ANSWER IS

20 questions answered by Niagara student

By NAUMAN FAROOQ
Staff Writer

Christal Allison, 24, of Port Dalhousie, is a student in the Dental Assistant program at Niagara College's Welland campus. She said she thought taking a dental program was tough, but that was before she was faced with our 20 questions.

Q. Name your favourite restaurant.

A. The Flying Tiger.

Q. Name six of your favourite songs.

A. *Angel* by Sarah McLachlan, *With or Without You* by U2, *Miss Misery* by Elliot Smith, *Cecilia* by Simon and Garfunkle, *King of My Castle* (artist unkown), *The Hamster Dance* (artist unkown).

Q. What is your favourite quote or line from a song?

A. "Too many to choose from."

Q. What was/is your favourite children's program?

A. Blues Clues.

Q. Who or what always makes you laugh?

A. Dianna, in radiography class.

Q. What was the worst job you ever had?

A. Waitressing at Crabby Joe's.

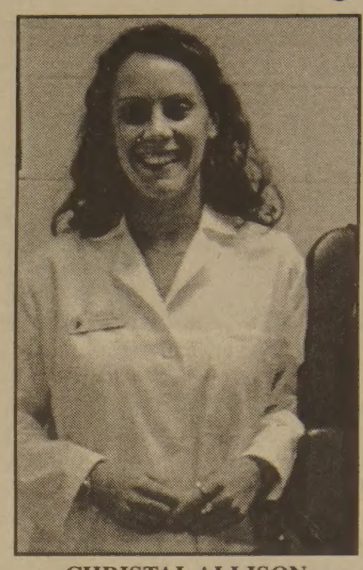
Q. What was the bravest thing you ever did?

A. Jumped off a 70-foot bridge in Fredericton, N.B.

Q. What is your greatest achievement?

A. Winning Henley Gold with eight of my friends.

Q. What is the nicest thing anyone has ever done for you?



CHRISTAL ALLISON

A. My best friend, Andrew, loves me every day unconditionally.

Q. What is the most embarrassing moment of your life?

A. Walking in for an interview with a button undone that shouldn't have been.

Q. Who is your idol or hero?

A. My mother. She has so much kindness towards everyone.

Q. What is your everyday car?

A. Pontiac Sunfire.

Q. If you were a car, what car would you be?

A. VW Cabrio (in) royal blue.

Q. What car, cost no object, would you like to drive for the next 12 months?

A. Black on black BMW convertible.

Q. What did you want to be when you grew up?

A. Photographer for National Geographic or a doctor.

Q. When did you decide to go into your current career?

A. About two years ago.

Q. What was your New Year's resolution?

A. To stop procrastinating.

Q. If you could have dinner with anyone, past or present, who would it be and why?

A. My grandfather. He died two weeks before I was born so I would like to know a little bit more about him.

Q. If you could go for a vacation anywhere, where would you go?

A. To the western Caribbean.

Q. What is the meaning of life?

A. To live each day to the fullest and to have fun doing it.

SAC raises awareness with game of Jeopardy in cafeteria

By BILL STEPHENSON
Staff Writer

The Welland campus Student Administrative Council (SAC) organized a Jeopardy game in the cafeteria to raise student awareness about SAC.

As part of SAC Awareness Week, on Nov. 15 students signed up to test their knowledge on SAC, acronyms, Canada, Canadian rock bands and Canadian sports history. Prizes for all contestants included SAC T-shirts, boxers and Blockbuster video gift certificates.

Brandon Robinson, 21, of the Health Science Prepatory program, ran the event with the help of Cindy Blanchard, financial administrator. Robinson, a student representative, says the event is helping SAC become more "vocal" among the students.

The game's point structure followed a 250, 500, 750, and 1,000 possible points for each question. Jeopardy started at 12:30 p.m. and two games were played. Contestants picked a number between one and 10 to determine who started.

The first game's categories were SAC, acronyms, college life, and Canada rock bands, which included audio clips as answers. The final answer was: "Initially called Shipman's Corners." The question was St. Catharines.

Dan Langevin, 21, of the Art and Design Fundamentals — Graphic Design Production program, won the first game. He answered, "Where is my butt?" a response receiving several laughs from the crowd. "I had no clue what the answer was."

The second game's categories were SAC, acronyms, Canada Eh!, and Canadian sports history. The final answer was: "Originally called Grand River Dam." The question was: "Dunnville," Robinson's hometown.

The winner of the second game was James Foster, 19, of the Police Foundations program.

Robinson says the game went well. "People are starting to know who we are."

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